AMERICAN FARMER.

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WORK FOR THE MONTH.

JUNE.

Before commencing the details of the several things to be attended to this month, we feel ourselves called upon to advise every owner, and tenant of a farm, to consider it a matter of duty, as it surely is his interest, to give his *personal attention* to all the operations on it, as he may rest assured, that personal superintendence — presence — forms a very strong element among those that lead to success in the culture of the earth—he may rest assured, that his *presence* among his hands while they are at work, whether they be slaves or hirelings, will operate as a saving of time, in a ratio of two hands, out of every ten that he may have employed. We say this from experience, without intending any disparaging reflection upon human nature, and offer the opinion above advanced, as the natural result of things, as borne out by our own observation and scrutiny of the action of those engaged in labor. In proportion to the interest manifested by the employer, in the execution of the work allotted to those employed by him, so has the employees in his service increased in their vigilance,—and in field operations, the interest of an employer is best and most effectually demonstrated by his personal supervision and presence—these infuse a spirit of energy and industry into the employed, and as a consequence, tend to arm them with the will and the nerve to toil.

And while we thus frankly speak of the necessity for the presence of the master, or employer, we would conjure every one who holds that relation, in the allotment of his tasks, to let them be within the compass of moderation, such as the physical powers of man can execute without prostration. And after having so graduated them, let them insist upon their being performed.

With these injunctions, we proceed to point out a few of the many things that ought to be attended to during this month:

HARVESTING.

As our Southern friends will have completed their harvesting before our journal shall have visited them again, we seize the present moment to make a few advisory remarks.

Harvest Force.—In the first place then, we would say to you that your harvest force should be ample to cut, bind and secure your crop; that it is better, much better, to have an excess than too few hands. You may rely upon it that it is an enlightened and true economy upon such occasions to be full handed, as well to get the grain down in good season, as to be able to place it in a condition to protect it from the contingencies of weather.

In providing your harvest hands, if you have to hire any, and we presume you will, do it early, in order that you may be able to select good ones; don't delay engaging them until the harvest is upon you.

Of Harvest Implements.—Provide yourself timely with a full supply of the best implements, and be sure that they are all in good order, and ready for work before the time for use arrives. This can only be effectually done by an immediate personal inspection of your stock. If you have not enough, purchase whatever you may be deficient in at once, and have what you may have, examined without delay, and such as may need it repaired without any delay. See to these things yourself.

Of Harvest Stores.—In laying in your harvest stores, see to it that they be *good in quality*, and *plentiful in quantity*, in order that the harvesters may suffer for nothing required to sustain their muscular energies, under the peculiarly trying nature of their labors in the field. Working, as they do, under the almost consuming rays of the sun, their physical powers are most heavily taxed, and unless they be sustained by refreshments between meals, it matters not how willing their hearts may be—it matters not what the degree of ambition by which they may be animated—all will have to yield to the extra calls made upon their strength, unless *extra* means be taken to sustain their sinking natures. Kind and provident attentions of this kind to their wants, act with moral power and effect, in nerving them for the struggle; and will, when backed by kindly words from a master or employer, go far to counteract the enervating effects of heat, and the toil encountered under its prostrating power. Interest and humanity then, both concur in the policy of allowing generous fare, and in the use of mildness of phrase upon these occasions. The experience of the past have demonstrated that money cannot be better laid out than in providing, not only the *necessaries*, but the *comforts* of the inward man. It has also demonstrated that money thus expended, besides its physical influence, will exert a moral one —will infuse that spirit of pride and gratitude among the sons of toil, which challenges the heart to do its best, and the arms, the muscles, the nerves and the hands, to strive on with their highest toned energies, in order that, when the sun sinks beneath the western horizon, they may with the lips of truth exclaim,—"a faithful day's work hath been done." To ensure such results, the master must give his personal supervision. His presence will serve to ensure requisite attention to the necessities of the hands, ensure order, faithfulness and fidelity from

them, and in every way promote the master's or employer's interest.

Lunches must be timely served to the hands in the field between meals; full time allowed for dinner, and unceasing vigilance observed, in keeping the men repeatedly furnished with *cool drinks* throughout the day, say every half hour.

Harvest Drink.—Half a gallon of *molasses*, five gallons of *water*, and ¼ lb. of good, pulverized *ginger*, well stirred together, make a pleasant, safe and invigorating beverage.

Time of Cutting Grain.

Grain cut from 7 to 10 days before it becomes dead-ripe, yields more bushels to the acre, better flour, and is intrinsically worth more money than when cut when dead-ripe. Besides which advantages, there is scarcely any loss from shattering, while the *straw*, as provender, is infinitely superior.

There is another powerful reason in favor of early cutting. The *rust*, that fell destroyer of the wheat crop—that blight upon well-grounded hopes—it is known, makes its appearance only a few days before the grain becomes thoroughly ripened; therefore, by anticipating this period—by cutting before its appearance—we avert its infliction—for a sore infliction the rust always proves to be. Again, by cutting some days before the period when the grain becomes dead-ripe, more time is allowed for the harvest—a matter of much importance.

To show the advantages resulting from early cutting in England, we will give one of several experiments made by *Mr. John Hannam*, the distinguished English farmer. These experiments extended through *five* different periods of cutting, viz:

No. 1 was cut a month before fully ripe.
" 2 " 3 weeks " "
" 3 " 2 weeks " "
" 4 " 2 days " "
" 5 " when ripe.

Taking 100 lbs. of the grain, he found it to yield flour as follows:

No.	Flour.	Seconds.	Bran.
1.	75 lbs.	7 lbs.	17 lbs.
2.	76 lbs.	7 lbs.	16 lbs.
3.	80 lbs.	5 lbs.	13 lbs.
4.	77 lbs.	7 lbs.	14 lbs.
5.	72 lbs.	11 lbs.	15 lbs.

"It thus appears," says Mr. Hannam, "that No. 3, cut 2 weeks before it was fully ripe, is superior to all other varieties, giving more per bushel than No. 5, cut when fully ripe, by 6½ lbs. of flour, and a gain of 15 per cent. on the flour of equal measure of grain. 100 lbs. of wheat of No. 3 makes 80 lbs. of flour; while 100 lbs. of No. 5. yields only 72 lbs., showing an average of 8 per cent. in favor of grain cut raw. In grinding, it was found that No. 5 ground the worst—worse than No. 1. In No. 5, were a greater quantity of flinty particles, which would not pass the bolt, than in any of the others. The bran from No. 5 was coarse and heavy; while that from No. 3 was thin as a bee's wing."

Mr. Hannam thus sums up the advantages:—"A gain of 15 per cent. of flour upon equal measures; a gain in the weight of straw of 14 per cent.; while the flour produced by No. 3 was of a far better quality than that produced from grain cut at any other time." Wheat cut early commands in England 2*s.* per quarter more than that cut when full ripe.

Cultivation of Corn.

Keep the *cultivator* and *hoe*, or *corn-harrow* and *hoe*, in your corn-fields constantly from now until you lay it by, which should be when it gets into silk. Let no weeds grow therein, and keep the soil at all times open to the influences of the sun, dew and rain. In times of drought be sure to keep the soil open. But don't use the plough.

Beets.

The *Mangold Wurtzel* and *Sugar Beet*, may be drilled in up to the 10th of this month. The crops will not be so large as they would have been had they been put in a month earlier; but still with careful culture, the season being propitious, will make a fair and remunerating crop. For the sake of your milch cows, do put in some, if is only an acre.

Carrots

May also be drilled in, if done the first week in this month. These roots are among the best food for milch cows; make an excellent and healthful alterative food for horses, and are well relished by all other stock.

Late Potatoes.

Though late, potatoes may be put in up to the 10th of this month.

Broadcast Corn.

To ensure green food for your cows in August and September, when the pastures will have nearly failed, put in an acre or so of broadcast corn. Manure the ground heavily, plough it deep, pulverize the soil thoroughly; then sow 3 bushels of corn per acre, harrow and cross harrow the seed in, and roll.

Millet.

You may sow millet seed up to the 10th of this month. If your crop of hay has, or is like to prove a short one, prepare as many acres as your necessities may require, and sow it to millet seed. You must manure heavily, plough deep, pulverize the soil thoroughly, roll, and sow the seed, and finish by rolling.

For the kind of land best adapted to its growth, mode of harvesting, and curing, see our directions of last month.

Clover for Hay.

As we advised you last month, clover for hay should always be cut when it first comes into bloom.

Fall Turnips.

It is too soon to put these in; but not too soon for you to be providing manure for them. And here let us say to you that this crop always prospers best when two ploughings are given to the ground.

The time for sowing the seed will be about the 15th of July.

For an acre of turnips you should at least have 20 two-horse cart loads of well rotted stable or barn-yard manure, 20 bushels of ashes, and 1 bushel of plaster, the manure to be ploughed in, and the two latter to be broadcasted and harrowed in. Ten bushels of bone-dust, 10 bushels of ashes, and 5 gallons of oil, mixed together, left in heap 3 weeks, and then worked over with the shovel, will manure an acre of turnips—to be harrowed in: so also will 300 lbs. of guano and 1 bushel of plaster, mixed together and ploughed in: so also would 20 loads of marsh mud, 10 bushels of ashes, 5 bushels of bone dust and 1 bushel of plaster, if thoroughly mixed together, and left in the heap 5 or 6 weeks, then worked over well with a shovel and applied: so also would 15 two-horse loads of marsh or river mud, made into compost with 5 loads of stable manure and 10 bushels of ashes and 1 bushel of plaster, suffered to lie 4 weeks in bulk, then thoroughly worked over and applied.

Buckwheat.

Any time after the middle of this month, or even as late as the 10th of next month, a crop of buckwheat may be seeded; the sooner after the 15th of this month the better. It is a sure crop, even on a poor soil with the aid of a little manure; in a tolerably fair soil a good crop may be calculated upon, the same means being used to fertilize the soil. It being a broad-leaved plant, it attracts and appropriates much of its organic nutriment from the atmosphere.

Of the Manure.—Ten two-horse cart loads of barn yard manure, 10 two-horse cart loads of any strong compost, 10 bushels of bone-dust, 10 bushels of ashes and 1 bushel of plaster mixed together, left in pie 10 days, then shoveled over, or 100 lbs. of Peruvian Guano, 5 two-horse loads of marsh, or river mud mixed together, will seed an acre of land. The bone-dust, ashes and plaster mixture, must be harrowed in; the others must be ploughed in.

The straw of buckwheat cured into hay is good long provender for cattle.

Quantity of Seed per acre.—Sow from 2 to 3 pecks of seed per acre.

Time of Cutting.—As buckwheat is very liable to shatter, it should be cut when one-half the grains on the head are ripe—that may be known by their turning black.

Beans.

Drill in a few acres with beans to feed your sheep through the winter. There is no food you can give them so promotive of the growth of wool. A gill of bean meal and 2½ lbs. of hay or fodder, per day, will keep a sheep in good condition. Drill your beans in early this month.

Wet Lands.

We repeat our advice to you to drain all your wet lands.

Ruta Baga Turnip.

For stock feeding this root stands deservedly high; it is productive, and more nutritive than any other of the turnip family; for *spring use*, it is a very excellent table vegetable, and should, we think, enter into very general culture; the more so as it is hardier than any other variety, is easier kept, and retains its edible qualities until a very late period in the spring—long after other kinds have ceased to be fit for use. For cattle and sheep there is no root grown superior to it, and is occasionally sliced, mixed with cut hay, fed to horses as an alterative food.

Time of Sowing.—If grown for cattle, sow any time between the 15th and 25th of this month; if intended for *table use*, the sowing should be delayed till about the 10th or 15th of July.

Modes of Culture.—They may be either grown in drills, or broadcast—the former the best mode. Raised in drills they are easier worked and yield more.

Of the Soil.—Like all other turnips, they delight most in deep, light, sandy-moulds; new ground, grass-swards, or clover-leys suit them best.

Preparation of the Soil.—We go, as our readers must be pretty well aware, for *thoroughness* in all preparation of the gound,—and, in this crop, we will add that it is absolutely necessary. Where it is practicable the land should be ploughed two or three times, and ploughed deeply, say from 8 to 10 inches in depth, accompanied by repeated harrowing and rolling, so that the soil shall be reduced to the finest possible tilth. If but one ploughing can be given, that must be executed with the utmost nicety and exactness to the depth named, the tilth to be reduced to the utmost fineness, by harrowing, cross harrowing and rolling.

Application of Manure.—If intended to be grown *broadcast*, the manure must be evenly spread and ploughed in—when thus grown they need one-third more manure. When raised in *drills*, as they ought to be, the manure must be spread evenly in the drills as hereinafter directed.

Kinds and Quantities of Manures.—If grown broadcast, it will take from 15 to 20 two-horse cart loads of well-rotted manure, in which there should be one part out of 8 of ashes. If *guano* be used, 400 lbs. and 1 bushel of plaster, mixed together, will be required. If *guano* and *bones* be used, 300 lbs. of the former and 4 bushels of the latter to be mixed with 1 bushel plaster.

If sown in drills two-thirds of the above quantities of manure will answer.

We will here remark that if guano should be used in the drill culture—at least 2 two-horse cart loads of rich earth should be mixed with the guano before it is applied in the drills.

Quantity of Seed per acre.—If sown *broadcast*, from 1½ to 2 lbs. of seed—if in the *drills*, 1 lb. will be enough.

Preparation of the Ground.—The ground being prepared, by ploughing, harrowing and rolling, as before directed, run furrows north and south, from 20 to 24 inches, apart, 4 inches deep, into these furrows distribute your manure evenly and equally; the manure in, cover it with a plough, run a harrow over the furrows. If you have a drilling machine—which you should have—drill the seed in on the top of the furrow, and your work will have been done, as the machine will make the drills, drop the seed, cover and roll at the same time. If you have no drilling machine, stretch a line along the centre of the furrow, and with a marking rake, or the cover of a hoe, trace a drill 1 inch deep, drop the seed from the mouth of a quart bottle, or a tin seeding horn—the bottle, or the horn must have in it equal quantities of seed and sand, and be kept constantly on the shake as the sower proceeds; he must be followed by a hand with a rake, to cover the seed, who must press the soil down on the seed with the back part of the rake.

Preparation of the Seed.—Soak the seed from 12 to 24 hours in fish oil previously to sowing them: drain the oil off, and mix them with ashes, to separate them and render them easy of being sown or drilled. Previous to sowing or drilling mix them with an equal quantity of dry sand.

After Culture.—As soon as the plants come up, for several mornings in succession, while the dew is on them, dust them with lime, ashes, or soot. This must be continued each morning until the plants get into the rough leaf.

When the plants are large enough, run a narrow cultivator through the middle of the rows, leaving the line of plants undisturbed; the plants must be worked by hand and hoes at the same time.

After the interval of a week, give the plants a second working, at which time thin them out, so as to stand 8 inches apart in the rows. Should there be any naked spots, draw plants carefully from where they may be too thick, and dibble them in, so as to fill up the vacant places: for this transplanting a wet season must be selected.

At the time of the second working, sow a bushel of a mixture, comprised of equal parts of ashes, plaster and salt over the drills of plants.

If your manure may not have had any ashes in it —you should at the first working, broadcast 10 bushels of ashes per acre over the plants. In ten days after the second working, give the plants a third one, and your labor of culture will be completed.

Ruta baga turnips when sown broadcast must be thinned out, so as to stand 12 inches apart—the earth must be frequently stirred and kept entirely free from weeds and grass.

POULTRY HOUSES.

Clean out your poultry-houses weekly, and save the manure, as it is good and will go two-thirds as far as guano, if properly preserved. Each weekly collection should be put in a barrel, strewed over with plaster or pulverized charcoal, covered from the air and kept in a dry place.

If your fowls have not access to a running stream of good fresh water, provide them with fresh water thrice a day. In cold or wet weather have the young broods protected by shelter, and see that they get upon such occasions, challots, chives, or leeks, finely chopt up, mixed with their food.

MANURE.

Pay increased attention to the gathering of rough materials for making manure.

FENCES.

Examine and repair your fences.

WEEDS.

Make war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt against the whole tribe of weeds. Let none go to seed.

BUSHES, BRIARS, BRAMBLES.

Cut these up and burn them as soon as they shall be dry enough.

IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS.

These should be examined weekly, and all that may need it, repaired.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

JUNE.

Before we begin to enumerate the matters that should be attended to during this month, we would enjoin it upon every proprietor of a garden to be assiduous, and see that his gardener destroys all weeds and grass before they can possibly have a chance of maturing their seed. We would also enjoin upon him as a duty, to have every unoccupied bed filled with vegetables of some kind or other, in order that his garden may yield abundant supplies for all his family wants, and for sale, if it be situated near a market.

Setting out Cabbage Plants.—Every shower and rain during this month should be availed of to plant out cabbage plants of the various sorts that may be cultivated by you. In withdrawing the plants from the seed bed care should be observed, so as to avoid injuring the roots. A mixture should be prepared in a piggin, or other tight vessel, comprised of 6 parts fine mould, 1 part soot and 1 part flour of sulphur, reduced to the consistence of cream with water, and, as the plants are withdrawn from the seed bed, they should be placed up to the first series of leaves. By such care a two-fold object is gained. The mixture which adheres to the stems and roots of the plants serves as a preventive against the ravages of the cut-worm —that deadly enemy to newly set out plants, and acts as a fertilizer.

Should drought occur after the plants are set out, the bed must be watered every evening just before sundown, until rain occurs, as it is very important that the plants should not suffer from the want of water at any period of their growth, and especially when newly set out.

Planting Green Peas.—As this delicious vegetable may, with proper care, be continued to one's family throughout the season, to secure that desirable object, we recommend you to select a shady bed in your garden, manure it moderately, dig in the manure deep, rake fine, lay off a few rows 4 feet apart and plant to peas the first week in this month, and repeat the planting every week throughout the month. By so doing you will secure a continuous supply. Water the drills as planted.

Melons, Cantaleupes.—Keep these clean and well watered throughout the month.

Transplanting Cauliflower and Broccoli Plants, &c. These should be set out the first rain that occurs, in a bed of rich, moist, but not wet loam. The plants should be well grown and strong.

In preparing the bed, give it 4 or 5 inches of well rotted cow or other dung, dig it in a full spade deep, incorporating the manure with the soil as the work progresses.

Then in the first week of this month, or at the time of the first week in this month set out your plants. In taking up your plants use a garden trowel, take them up singly, being careful to let as much earth as possible adhere to the roots; plant them down to their leaves, in rows 3 feet apart, the plants to stand the same distance asunder in the rows; draw the earth up towards the plants so as to form around each a basin-like hollow, 8 inches over and 2 inches deep, to receive and retain water, which must occasionally be given them until they are fit to be earthed up. Previous to earthing up the plants, fill up the basin-like hollows around them with good compost earth, if convenient, if not draw the earth from the middle of the rows around the stems of the plants and moderately water them at the time. The watering must be repeated at intervals of 3 or 4 days till the plants get into a vigorous growing condition, and afterwards at longer intervals, the length of which, must be regulated by the wants of the plants and state of the weather, it being important never to let them want for moisture. The plants should be kept covered at night for about 3 weeks, taking the covers off in the day time. Two or three waterings with a solution of soot, made with 3 quarts of soot to a hogshead of water, during the first 3 weeks, will be very useful. In place of the soot, 3 lbs. Peruvian Guano will answer. Keep the plants clean from weeds, and the earth open.

Sowing Cauliflower and Broccoli Seed.—Seed of these may be sown any time during this month to raise plants for flowering in October.

Beans.—In the early part of this month plant beans.

The beans now growing must be kept clean from weeds and grass, the earth be kept open, and in times of drought must be watered at least thrice a week just before sun down.

Lettuce.—Transplant lettuce for heading, 10 inches apart, and sow seed to raise plants for future setting out.

Small Sallading.—Sow seed of all kinds of sallading once a week or ten days throughout the month.

Radishes.—Thin out your radishes if too thick, so that they may stand 3 inches asunder. At intervals of 10 days apart throughout this month sow radish seed.

Sowing Spinach.—Drill in a few rows of spinach every 10 days throught the month.

Your early spinach, if you have any, should be worked and thinned out so as to stand 4 inches apart in the rows.

Carrots—Parsnips.—Seed of these may be drilled up to the 10th of the month. Those, therefore, who have failed to put in a few rows of these excellent and healthful roots should do so at once, as no family should be without them; they add so much to the luxuries of the table.

Sowing Cabbage Seed.—Within the first week of this month sow cabbage seed of different kinds, to raise plants to set out for winter use. Whatever other kind you may neglect to sow, do not omit to sow some Savoy cabbage seed, as, when nipped with the frost, the Savoy is almost as delicious as the flowers of the cauliflower.

Cymblins—Cucumbers.—Keep these clean from weeds and don't permit them to suffer for the want of water.

Pole Beans.—See to it that these are kept clean, and regularly watered every two or three days in times of drought.

Early Beets—Parsnips—Carrots.—Keep these clean from weeds, the earth between the rows open, and in time of drought don't spare the watering pot.

Early Turnips.—If you sowed early turnips, as we advised last month, they should, early this month, be thinned out so as to stand 8 inches apart.

If you have not put in a bed of them, prepare a bed at once, as we have before advised, and seed to early turnips; for there is no vegetable more acceptable to the palate, or which pay better when raised early for market. We have sold them at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per bushel.

Salsify or Vegetable Oyster.—See that this excellent root is kept clean, the earth well stirred and open to the influence of the atmosphere, and in times of drought that it is freely watered.

Onions.—If you find that your onions incline more to tops than bulbs, take a piece of board or long stick, and gently incline the tops to one side, and in a few days return them by a similar process to the other side, which operations will repress the ascent of the juices, and encourage the bulbs to swell.

Keep the bed clean, but do not cover the bulb. Water freely.

Okra.—Earth up your advancing crops of okra; wherever they may be too thick, thin them out so as to stand 8 inches asunder in the rows.

Tomato—Egg-Plant.—In the early part of this month plant out a general crop of these.

Red Peppers.—If your red pepper plants are ready to set out, set them out the first rain. Be sure to keep them clean, and, in times of drought, well watered.

Borecole.—Early this month set out your plants, and sow seed.

Endives.—Set out your plants, if of sufficient size—then sow seed for a late crop.

Late Roasting Ears.—Prepare a bed, and plant a few rows of corn, to raise late roasting ears.

Pot and Other Herbs.—Plant out from the seed beds, the young plants of thyme, hyssop, marjorum, winter savory, &c. Let this be done in moist cloudy weather, and be sure to water them every evening just before sun down after they are planted, until rain ccours—and in times of drought during the growing season.

Peach Trees.—Examine your peach trees a few inches beneath the surface of the ground around the bodies of the trees, and wherever you find indications of the worm, run the point of a knitting needle, the point of a piece of wire, or the point of a knife in the hole. This done, strew ashes around the part of the tree examined, return the earth, and top-dress with a mixture made of 6 parts ashes, 1 part saltpetre and 1 part salt; then paint the bodies of the trees with a mixture comprised, in the proportion of 1 gallon of soft soap, 1 quart of salt, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of flour of sulphur.

Indeed, the bodies of all the fruit trees in your garden and orchard should be painted with the above mixture.

Watering the Garden.—We have spoken pretty freely under the heads of the different vegetables named in the preceding paragraphs, but will here add, that the free use of the watering pot in times of drought is an element of success that cannot be dispensed with in the garden, as water is indispensable in preparing food of all plants.

If any of our correspondents can aid the writer of the following, we will be glad to hear from them.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Having tried many experiments, all of which have failed, I transmit you a few lines, hoping soon to receive an answer to my inquiry; which is this—what will restore land when it has been seriously injured by the application of too much lime and ashes; or more strictly speaking, the fine dirt produced from Indian shell banks. The land is a light sandy loam, and previous to the application of the dirt, yielded quite well, but since it has received the injury it is of little value. The crops both of wheat and corn will come forth and for some weeks grow rapidly; when suddenly they begin to fail. I have tried the highly prized guano, and also turned in a clover ley, following it with a crop of wheat, but finally have failed to accomplish my design; viz., to restore the injured soil to its wonted fertility. Will your correspondents write. Respectfully yours,

A Subscriber.

Somerset Co., Md., May 14th, 1857.

High Prices for Md. Tobacco.—The following sales are reported in the daily papers of our city, of a crop of bay tobacco, raised by Richard Browning, of Frederick Co., and sold by Chas. R. Waters, commission merchant:

"One hogshead at $40, one at $37, one at $25, and one at $11, making an average of $28.25 per hundred pounds for the whole crop. These are the largest prices paid for bay tobacco within a period of forty years."

☞Mr. Wm. J. H. Dorsey, commission merchant of Baltimore, recently sold seven hogsheads of Tobacco, raised by Mr. George Gaither, of Frederick County, Md., at the following prices per hundred weight: $45, $40, $34, $26.50, $14.50 $11, and $9.

[For the American Farmer.]

SURFACE COVERING.

Messrs. Editors:—It is with much pleasure I have read an editorial in your April number on "Surface Manuring," which a friend has kindly called my attention to. I must say however I regretted to find the Junior Editor alone obliged to bear its responsibility, but if it be of any consolation to him, I for one will say to him, all hail! follow up the path you have so nobly struck upon, and I verily believe you will find out the only true theory of improving soil. I am, gentlemen, a firm believer in that much ridiculed theory, first advanced by Dr. Baldwin, of Va., viz: that the residue of putrefaction is alone the food of plants; I would admit for argument sake, that certain chemical substances produce beneficial effects on growing plants, and that plaister, by some action of which we are ignorant, improves grass in certain conditions of soil; but I deny that any *Chemical substance* or all the plaister in the world would bring a plant to perfection in a barren or totally exhausted soil. The "residue of putrefaction" will do it, therefore it is the only *pabulum* of plants—the only substance which should be called manure. Take any substance capable of decomposition, cover it from the rays of the sun, place it in a damp position, and in a still atmosphere, and you will soon find it changing its character, its appearance, and in most cases giving off an offensive smell—in other words it is rotting. Long litter manure, intrinsically becomes most valuable in undergoing this process—wood will rot sooner in this position than in any other, the hardest brick will crumble and fall to pieces. These are facts which all will admit,—what do they teach us? What do they teach the practical farmer? They teach him to *cover* his soil from the sun, it will become *damp*, and a closer covering will prevent a *circulation* of air; give your soil this treatment, and it will become the food of plants, its color will be changed, its consistency will be changed, and it will have the appearance as if it indeed had undergone a rotting process. I am glad to find your time-honored and able Journal teaching this great fact, that the covering of soil will improve it. It is indeed a great fact and a glorious one for the practical farmer, worth more to him than forty chapters from Liebig or ten scientific lectures. Let him then cover his soil with anything that is cheap and ready to his hand, and my experience and my word for it and the opinion of the Junior Editor besides, he will find it greatly enriched, and more permanently than a heavy covering of barn yard manure. I am sorry the Junior Editor in explaining the cause of this singular action on soil indulges in what Mr. Clemson will please excuse me for calling, a *humbug theory*. I think I could in five minutes conversation give him facts and reasons enough to change his opinion, but I will not quarrel with those who attempt to explain the causes of this curious fact. Admit that covering or shading, as Dr. Baldwin calls it, will enrich the soil, and that is all the practical farmer need know. Teach our farmers then to sow clover, to manure upon the surface, to spread their straw on the barren places in their fields, or where the clover is thinly taken instead of rotting it in the barn yard or leaving it to waste away in the ricks, to spread or cover in fact with anything which they may have suitable for the purpose, and I verily believe science need labour no more to find out mineral manures for exhausted soils. In looking further through the interesting pages of your April number I find an article on "The applicability of chemical analysis to the improvement of soil;" in addition to the difficulties of a proper analysis, allow me to suggest another difficulty as to the *practical truth* of *any* analysis of soil; allowing the possibility of thoroughly analysing an acre of soil which is found to be deficient of any supposed necessary mineral constituents, cover this acre with any substance, which will produce a close and proper covering, and you will find it in twelve months greatly enriched. How does the necessary mineral constituent get there to produce this improvement? A VA. FARMER.

[Prof. Voelcker's theory will probably be reviewed in our pages.—ED.]

THE FARMER IN N. CAROLINA—THE WEATHER AND CROPS—MANURES, &C.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

The receipt of the Farmer to day reminds me of my duty to you. Enclosed you will find $2, which you will place to my account. Perhaps I am the oldest subscriber in this part of the country, and have always hailed the receipt of every number as an old friend. The farmers in this neighborhood are making rapid strides in the improvement of their lands, which I must conclude is owing to the circulation of the Farmer, yet many cannot be induced to take it, owing to their antipathy to book farming.

The wheat crops really look better than one could suppose, from the severity of the winter. I think, so far as I can see in my travels, though it is confined to the neighborhood principally, they are better than I have seen them for several years past, but you will bear in mind that it is not a staple crop with us. Most of the oat crop that was seeded in February was killed by the cold in March. Our corn has come up very badly, some of our farmers have plowed up their low lands and planted the second time, and we are fearful it will meet a sad fate with the bud worm.

There is a larger belt of lands planted in cotton this year than has heretofore been with us. I notice there has been a good deal of complaint about the price of Guano. If the agency was to ask or demand $100 per ton instead of $60 or 70, I think it would be much better for the farmer, for then he would raise his own manure, which every one should do. He can raise 50 loads of manure or compost to every acre of land that he cultivates with all ease, if properly attended to, and then there would be no need of the Peruvian agents or their guano, for our fields would soon bloom with the verdure as the rose. If any of your readers should doubt it, tell them to take a trip to Little Contentia, Pitt county, N. C., and they will be no longer skeptical. Yours, &c.

WM. MAY.

ORCHARD MANAGEMENT.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

If Mr. John Folck, of Pleasant Mills, will remove the soil three inches deep, and the same width, from the crown of the trees in his apple orchard, and fill the space with ashes, wood or coal, he will probably not be troubled with the "pests" he complains of.

In the autumn the ashes should be thrown out, leaving the crown exposed during the winter—renewing the application in the spring. This should be done *at once*. I.

Philadelphia, May 1st, 1857.

[For the American Farmer.]

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY.

It matters little whether the science or art of farming be looked at, either in relation to its direct object of developing the agricultural resources of the soil, which function appertains more particularly to the practical farmer; or in relation to its indirect influence, mediately and prospectively, upon the entire community, which is the province of the economist, interlinked as it is with other interests of the State, be they professional, mercantile, or mechanical, its great importance is none the less apparent.

Among well informed men, it is no longer a disputed point whether such a phrase as *scientific farming* can be incorporated into the *vocabulary* of agriculturists. In order to a proper cultivation of land, the qualities of the soil to be improved, its defects and its wants, must be known, ere the proper ingredients can be replaced to render it fertile.—Book intelligence, as containing the results of others' observations and investigations, must be had, and the man who disregards either in *theory* or *practice* these sources of information, and pursues his own stereotyped process of farming, does himself an injury, the community an injustice, and violates an uncompromising law of nature, the consequences of which—should he himself escape—will be entailed upon future generations who shall inherit your impoverished land. If the natural ingredients of the soil necessary to the growth of plants or grain, be extracted by any process, these same qualities by some artificial means must be replaced.

I cannot, however, go into all of the details of farming, but proceed to make, possibly a stricture or two, possibly a suggestion, as to those particulars in farming which have of late years been so lamentably neglected, not only by *agriculturists*, as such, but also by *economists*. Perhaps among those things which have received the least consideration of farmers and agricultural economists, in proportion to its importance, is the manufacturing and application of domestic manures, in the form, not merely of manufactured *fertilizers*, but in such form as any farmer might have, if willing, upon his own plantation. Did time permit, I might attempt, in addition, to show how we disregard, not merely in cultivating the soil, principles which must be observed, but also in the culture of plants, of stock, and of grain. I might specify the causes which produce and the circumstances which are incidental to the change of the *type* of *indigenous* and *exotic* plants, from neglect or false ideas of their need. How stock, whether native or foreign, is permitted to deteriorate, when its food, its protection and its attention are not regulated by such rules as shall assimilate the new condition of the animal, in climate, food, &c., to its former and normal condition; how by means of crossing, &c., the original type of stock is lost; how the primitive quality of grain—how, in point of fact, all *animal* and *vegetable* products incidental to and developed from the soil, unless properly cultured and attended to, will degenerate. These and similar particulars belong more properly to that department of agricultural *economy* which appertains to improved lands. The matter under consideration with us is, how shall the land for the most part of our sea-board States, be improved, in the most judicious and economical manner?—Of the converse of this, to wit, the palpable mistakes of farmers in their modes of farming, whereby good land, instead of being improved, is allowed to be impoverished, we shall throw out but a single hint.

In order to make the matter more specific, we will confine our thoughts principally to our own State. What is true of Maryland, is also true of a large portion of Virginia and North Carolina.—In different sections of our State there are still fertile spots, which have not been exhausted of those properties so essential to the luxuriant and healthy growth of a crop. The culture of tobacco, such as was so generally in vogue in the early history of Maryland, so exhausting to land, (primitively not very strong,) has eliminated from our soil many of those elements which are necessary for the successful growth of plants or grain. As a consequence of this, we find in the old counties of the State, with perhaps a few exceptions, such as Frederick county, &c., a constant and absolute need of manures, to quicken and fertilize the soil. If such be the need, cannot the necessary material be found, in proximity with the soil to be improved, even should it exist in some other form?

It is a well ascertained fact, that until within the last ten years, the mode adopted by our Maryland farmers in resuscitating worn-out lands, was to apply lime upon the *sedge sward*, or rather upon the ground when broken up in the spring for their corn crop. In this case the farmer invested some 8 to 10 dollars per acre in the land, with comparatively nothing to show for his expenditure, when the crop had matured. The *lime* in that case has shown but little tangible effects, because of the absence from the soil of *vegetable matter*, upon which the lime could act efficiently. Since the introduction of guano, an inodorous and concentrated manure, a different process has been adopted in the culture of worn-out lands. The intelligent, observing and judicious farmer now applies this manure, to produce vegetation, which, when once gained, prepares the land for the application of quickening manures, such as lime, &c. By this process, he secures a basis in his soil, which will evolve, as the land is cultivated, and as the plant has need, such elements as will produce a healthy growth. The guano replaces in the soil the ammonia, held absorbed in a nascent condition, in its deposit. This, when relieved by the process of farming, and by the natural process of assimilating itself to the particles of earth in juxta-position therewith, promotes how greatly the growth of vegetable matter. To this, upon the surface of the ground where there is vegetable matter, lime is applied, which secures for the soil a body.—This once gained, much is accomplished in the way of renovating poor land.

It would seem almost superfluous in me to mention the vast amount of guano which is imported into the State annually. Baltimore has been, ever since the discovery of this manure, the principal mart, upon the *Atlantic Coast*, for the sale of this *fertilizer*. The amount of money expended in the purchase of guano is almost fabulous—and for what? To produce vegetation upon the soil. Can no manure be found which will perform this function for the farmer, which can be purchased at a less expense, and which shall be in proximity with us? Need we go to the coast of South America, for the excrements of birds, their carcasses and their dry bones? Can not *agricultural economists* find some other expedient which will accomplish

for the farmer the same end, at an infinitely less expense, and thereby promote and encourage home industry? We do not mean to detract one particle from the value of this manure; we know of its efficiency; we have seen what renovations it has wrought; we are aware that it contains properties, which, because of the uniform temperature of the climate in which found, because of its exemption from rain, are held in a nascent state, which places guano, particularly the Peruvian, almost beyond competition; but still we are forced to recur again to the question: Can we not find nearer to us, some manure manufactured among us by our own citizens, which will effectuate for us the same or similar results? This answered affirmatively and practically, and how great the annual saving to farmers!

In virtue of an irresistible law of nature, we may *exhaust* or *eliminate* the properties of land, yet these same properties are to be found elsewhere, in other forms.

The original quality of the soil of Maryland, was for the most part good; where are now barren wastes, were once fertile spots. Where is that substance, which once existed and dissolved itself? If by mistaken modes of farming, and by artificial means, nature's *laboratory* has been robbed, can we not, in this day of progress, by means of man's ingenuity, contrive some alternative, whereby that which has been extracted, may again be replaced? This can be done. The material exists, and it needs but the attempt of the scientific agricultural chemist, and his efforts, to discover, and his appeals, to replace the lost properties, shall be crowned with the most abundant success.

In the discovery and advancement of such enterprises as these, not merely the *farmer*, but *humanity*, has interests. For the purpose of speculation, when everything is turned to a profitable account, is such an undertaking not worthy of the chemist? In our own city we have manufactories, where are prepared *artificial manures*, in the form of salts, poudrettes, &c., but how incommensurate and unscientific are the efforts put forth, with the demand. The nature of many of these *manures* being unknown, how often are they misapplied, and money thereby wasted, and the farmer left to see or reap no tangible effects.

If each farmer would prepare for himself a receptacle, where he would protect from rain and sun the gleanings of weeds, &c., of manure from the stables, of offals from the kitchens, how much would he do for himself. If all the *foul* substances from sinks, &c., in our city, penetrating the earth, contaminating the water we drink; if all the offals from kitchens could be collected by authorized agents, how much would the sanitary arrangements of our great metropolis be promoted, and how vast the quantities of *manures* containing such substances as our lands so much need. The serous liquid, which all the filth, &c., contains, in our streets, our sinks, &c., evolving as they do, from every gutter in the city, and from every private house, effluvia to sicken with its exhalations of ammonia, carbonic acid, sulphuretted and phosphuretted gases, penetrating the earth, and polluting the elements we eat and drink, could it be collected and manufactured into manure, the soil would thus have replaced in it, that which has been taken from it. Would not the waters thereby,—which God has given us, as clear and limpid as they are in their natural state, to drink, and in which to lave our sickened and diseased bodies—instead of generating disease, and degenerating and shortening the period of each successive generation, such as we find in every large city, be freed from these contaminating nuisances?

These substances, if collected, manufactured and applied to our lands, together with others distributed according to the *economy* of nature, throughout our State, if judiciously used, would be accomplishing for the farmer what is so vital to his prosperity, and for the State and the community, what it has a right to expect in this day of science, when by *human* appliances the face of nature, by such means as nature's God has placed at our disposal, can be totally changed. Is it not, then, worthy of the attempt of some chemist, to ascertain and to fix upon some practicable expedient, whereby these ends might be gained? A glance at the mortality list of Baltimore, of New York, of Liverpool, of Paris, and of London, augmented by disease, created from the neglect of humanity to attend to such laws of economy and cleanliness, as our Sovereign has ordained, will convince the chemist who makes the effort, of the *philanthropy* of his undertaking; its practical and efficient results, growing out of the necessity of the times, and the need of farmers, will convince of its *economy* and *profit*.*

Have we not, then, the ingredients in some other form, which, if discovered, developed and applied to our lands, would be instrumental in accomplishing for the farmer and the State, what is now done at so enormous an expense? This done, would not the very materials placed at our feet, producing disease, be laid under contribution to the farmer, providing for his wants, and would not he be accomplishing for himself and his race, what is expected of every intelligent and responsible man?

Your obd't servant,

GEORGE MORRISON.

* The above we consider another illustration of, and argument for, a State Agricultural University, which we have before advocated. The happy results of a chemical professorship in that institution, might be seen in its accomplishing what we herein suggest. This of course would be the work of time. Time, however, will disclose these results.

☞ The communication of Mr. M. will commend itself, from the intrinsic importance of the subject discussed, to the attention of every agriculturist. There is a mine of wealth to the agriculture of the State, and of vast importance to our city, in the offal of our streets, privies, slaughter houses, chemical works, &c., &c., only requiring a small outlay of capital, but proper qualifications in those who would undertake its management, to develope it—and the wonder to us is, that the opportunities have been left so long unimproved.

We notice by a recent publication, that the Pennsylvania Legislature hasjust incorporated the Street-Sweeping and Fertilizing Company—a company which proposes to use machines for cleaning the streets of Philadelphia, and at some convenient location beyond the city to convert all the street offal into manure. A similar undertaking in this city would, we have no doubt, be found fully remunerating to the undertakers.

THE FARMER IN PENNSYLVANIA.

NEW LONDON, PA. MAY 14th, 1857.

Messrs. Sands & Worthington.

GENTLEMEN:—You will please find enclosed your bill against me for two years subscription.

I will embrace this opportunity to bear testimony to the merit of your Journal, which, to a person who like myself possesses its numbers for several consecutive years, may be looked upon as an encyclopedia of practical and scientific farming. Permit me to indulge the hope that your zeal and energy in the effort to elevate the standard of farm operations in this country may meet with the encouragement and success which they merit, and lead to fortune as well as fame. 'Tis true, we American farmers are slow at book-farming, but "*perseverentia omnia vincit*," and we may hope there is a good time coming. Were I not so much beset with your southern sin of indolence, I would endeavor to give you some account as to how we stand in this good old county of Chester. Perhaps cold weather may break the spell.

Respectfully, J. H. CUNNINGHAM.

[We hope our friend, Dr. C. will get over his sin, as we are trying hard to do in the South, and give us some of the results of the experience of the industrious money making farmers of the rich county of Chester—information from such a practical source would be acceptable to us and no doubt to our friends generally south of Mason & Dixon's line.—ED.]

THE CROPS IN CUMBERLAND CO., VIRGINIA—GUANOES—THE FARMER.

CARTERSVILLE, MAY 7th, 1857.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:—

The wheat crop in this part of Virginia I think will be an average one; my own crop is a very fine one. I applied to my wheat last fall a mixture of Peruvian Guano, alum salt and plaster, about 200 lbs. to the acre. I also used a mixture of Peruvian and Mexican Guano and salt, and where this was used the wheat is just as good as the other. The farmers about here are quitting the use of Mexican Guano, having concluded that it is of no account; I have never used it alone, but it certainly seems to do well when combined with the Peruvian.—Our planters are making preparations for large crops of Tobacco, and I am disposed to think that plants will be abundant—at least they are so at present. All of our fruits have been killed by the frost except apples.

For the last six months or so I have been so closely confined at home that I have had no opportunity of advancing the interest of your most valuable Journal, (and I always avail myself of every such opportunity,) but I will try and let you hear from me before the commencement of the next volume. The last No. of the Farmer I think a very interesting and valuable one.

Yours, &c. WM. HOLEMAN.

A VALUABLE VARIETY OF CORN.—Thomas R. Joynes, Jr., of Accomac Co., Va., has forwarded us a few grains of yellow corn, a portion of a small quantity given him by a friend, "who speaks in the highest terms of its productiveness, exceeding in this respect, he says, any he ever saw—the ears of this corn are large, well filled, not very long, (10 to 12 inches,) and containing 20 rows." A gentleman to whom we showed the corn, also speaks of it in the same eulogistic terms. The grains are rather long and narrow, the cob red.

For the American Farmer.

RENOVATION OF WORN OUT LANDS IN VIRGINIA.

I notice a piece, under the head of "Renovation of Worn-out Lands, &c., by a Virginia Farmer," in your last issue, which I will take the liberty to explain more fully than he has thought fit to do. As the writer says, the farm contains about 450 acres, but it is not so *miserably poor* as he seems to think; yet is far from being rich. The former owner purchased the farm about 1829, when there was not over thirty acres open land upon it, and that of the crawfish kind, of which the writer speaks; so it could not be supposed his crops then, would have averaged 150 bushels wheat and 500 bushels corn; but by practicing the system which his successor has followed, of clearing up new land annually, he succeeded in making his wheat crop average him 10 bushels, from 1 bushel, without the aid of guano, lime, or any other manure save what was made from his barn-yard and stable, by his "*sand flirters.*" Another thing to be taken into consideration, is the quantity of land the present owner cultivates, and the cost at which he does it. I should say, from what I have seen of it since he has turned farmer, that he cultivates in wheat upwards of 200 acres, and in corn the balance, save about 10 or 15 acres now standing in pine timber. Now, with 200 acres new land, (some of it very good,) and with guano, lime, ashes, and every other manure in use, since the days of Adam up to the present, what else could have been expected?

Since the proprietor has owned the farm, everything has favored him; and I really do think the "Giver of all Good" has taken a fancy to him, and helped him along. His wheat has averaged upwards of $1.50, and corn about $3, ever since he has been farming; whereas, prior to that, wheat was 75 cents, and corn was from $1.75 to $2.25.

I think if the proprietor of said farm would give a statement of the cost of the various manures, and the other farming expenses, (which he can do very readily, for he is a very systematic man in all his business affairs,) I think it would be found he had not pocketed much more *filthy lucre* from the proceeds of his farm, than did his predecessor.

Stafford Co., Va., April 10, 1857. H. C. P.

[We publish the above, as requested. The object of the writer of the article in our April No. was evidently to show what had been accomplished by energy, upon a farm which certainly, from the evidences furnished by both of our correspondents, could have paid but a very poor per centage on any supposed value of the land. The present owner no doubt had read Æsop, and remembered the reply to the prayer to Hercules, and consequently his faith was shown by his works; and he thus became the favorite of Him who worketh always by means, giving to the sower the early and the latter rain, whilst he on his part has evidently had his trust in the "Giver of all Good."]

TALL PRICE.—The Danville Va., Register says that a sale of tobacco was made in that market on Tuesday at auction, at the high price of $52 per hundred. The tobacco was brought from Davie county, North Carolina, and was purchased by Mr. John M. Sutherlin.

LAYING OUT UNDER DRAINS.

I propose to take up the use of the tile, and to explain the manner in which the drains should be constructed. In so doing, I shall confine myself to thorough-draining, or such a system as shall completely drain every part of a field, without special reference to springs or excessive deposits of water; acting on the supposition that various localities will designate such modifications of the system as their peculiarities may require.

The first step to take is to stake out a field in such a way as to point out the direction and depth of the drains; and in doing this we must first determine the lowest point of the boundary, as the place at which to make the outlet, and decide the depth to which the main drain or drains are to be sunk. Feeling assured of the greater economy of deep draining, I have no hesitation in recommending that the mains be cut to a depth of five feet in all cases where this depth is attainable.—Having selected the point of outlet, the mains should be staked out through the hollows or lower parts of the field or tract to be drained, without reference to the curvature which this arrangement will require. In most cases, one main drain will suffice, but it is often necessary to connect with this several sub-mains (or other large drains) running through other hollows. These mains should follow, as nearly as possible, in old water courses, for these always indicate those parts of the land which have received the natural surface drainage, and are consequently so located as to afford the best discharge for the water which may be collected by the side drains.

Having staked out the main drains, we proceed to locate those which are to discharge in them; and we must always keep in view that the side-drains are to be run as nearly up and down the slope as the general formation of the land will allow. They must not be placed horizontally along the slopes to catch the water running over the surface, nor diagonally to cut off springs and carry the water gradually off, but right up and down. The former arrangement will do very well for single drains constructed for specific purposes, but in thorough-draining, whether with tile or stone, the up and down direction is much the best—indeed, it is the only one that will fully meet the demands of the best and most economical system of draining. Of course, as the drains must be nearly parallel, it is not possible always to preserve an exactly perpendicular direction; but a little experience will enable the farmer to regulate this matter according to the requirements of the case.

The distance between the side drains depends upon their depth. If they are three feet deep, they should be but twenty feet apart, and every foot in depth doubles the distance at which they may be placed. The reason for this is that the water does not settle in the soil to a uniform depth, the capillary attraction of the particles of the soil tending to hold the water above its average level; and as this force is less and less counteracted by removal as we recede from the drain, it follows that the water-line is a curved one, the moisture rising somewhat higher than the bottom of the tile as we approach the line lying midway between two drains. It is estimated that when drains are twenty feet apart and three feet deep, in ordinary soils, the highest point of the water-line is usually about thirty inches from the surface. Now, if this curved line were continued beyond the drains for ten feet on each side, it would strike to a depth of about four feet, and at these places we might place four feet drains—they being about forty feet apart—and produce the same effect, as regards the height of the water-line, as in the case of the three feet drains twenty feet apart. On the same principle, we may place five feet drains eighty feet (or, more conveniently, five rods) asunder. This rule can hardly be considered mathematically correct, as the capillary force of the soil varies very much according to its composition; but it is one which a long experience has suggested, and it has by common consent become a law—at least sufficiently accurate for practical purposes.

From what has been said, we see that the first point to determine, after having staked out the main drains, is the depth to which to cut the side-drains, for only after such decision can we regulate the distance apart at which to locate them. In deciding this point, the following considerations must be regarded:

1. Is the outlet to the field sufficient to allow the drains to be placed five feet deep, or only four, or three feet deep?

2. Is the character of the subsoil such as to make it easier to dig one trench five feet deep, two four feet deep, or four three feet deep?

3. Is the subsoil so strong that it will be impossible to make a smooth bottom to a deep drain, while such a bottom might easily be prepared if the drains were more shallow?

The first consideration is all-important, for there are few soils in which the second and third would have much weight as objections to deep draining. If there be no outlet lower than three feet from the surface, then the question is settled, unless the land be sufficiently inclined to admit of the side-drains being run deeper soon after leaving the mains.

Let us suppose that we decide on four feet drains, though I prefer five feet wherever attainable. We then proceed to lay out the side drains forty feet apart, and as nearly parallel as the formation of the surface will allow, always bearing in mind that we must run as nearly up and down the slopes as is possible, without any great divergence. We then commence at the bottom of the main drain, and, with a large plow, throw out two or more furrows along the lines that we have laid out for all of the drains in the field. The earth should then be thrown out with shovels until the bottom is well cleaned. After that, the soil may be loosened with a deep subsoil plow, passing repeatedly over the same places—the loose dirt being thrown out after each plowing; and this may be repeated until we have attained a depth of about two feet. We then commence with the narrow tools used for cutting trenches for tile, and cut the ditches to within two or three inches of the required depth; the bottoms should then be cleaned out with a narrow scoop made for the purpose, and proper care should be given to the inclination to prevent any deviation which might cause the flow of water to become less rapid at any point than in any part of the drain above it, as this would cause a deposit of sediment, or a softening of the soil about the tile, which would in time effect a stoppage of the flow of water. This is one of the most difficult and at the same time one of the most essential branches of the operation. It

does no harm, if the tile are well laid, to have the descent constantly increasing; but if the flow is stopped at any point, mischief is pretty sure to ensue, and the permanency of the drain (one of its most important characteristics) will be affected.

Having regulated the fall of the drains, we should beat the bottoms with a cylindrical pounder until they are smooth and solid, and then lay the tile (pipe or sole tile) directly upon the ground, commencing always at the upper ends and covering the joints with the least quantity of hay, leaves or shavings that will suffice to prevent the entrance of loose dirt, and throwing the stiffest soil that we have at hand directly upon the tile to a depth of six or eight inches. We now take a wooden maul and beat the earth compactly over and about the tile, and after that fill up the trench. Tile thus laid may be considered ever-lasting.

It is well always to bear in mind that the inclinations of the bottoms of drains should never *decrease* as we approach the outlet; that we should always commence laying the tile at the upper end of the drains; that no more covering should be put over the tile than is absolutely necessary; and that the most clayey soil should be packed down over them. Two-inch sole pipe are almost always large enough for the side-drains, and the mains must be larger tile, or else two or more of the small tile must be laid side and side to carry all of the water that may be received.—Geo. E. Waring, Jr., *Draining Engineer, in N. Y. Trib.*

[From the Ohio Cultivator.]

CULTURE OF THE SWEET POTATO.

We will take it for granted that the plants are ready for setting out.

The best soil for the Sweet Potato is a fine rich loam, underlaid with clay. A coarse porous soil we have ever found unfavorable. The soil should naturally be of fine texture. The inclination is not important, but we always prefer an eastern or southern exposure.

The land should be plowed deep in early Spring, so that the partial freezes at night will mellow it thoroughly. Then about the middle of May, plow again, and make the soil fine by harrowing, and rolling, if necessary. If you have no roller, go to the woods and cut a straight stick about 8 inches in diameter, and from 6 to 10 feet long, fasten a chain at each end, then hitch your team to it, and drag it over your patch till you have it well mellowed; then plow again and harrow, when you will be ready to mark out the rows, which we do with a shovel plow, marking them out about 2¾ feet each way. You are now ready to mark the hills, which we do with common hand hoes, and about the size of a bushel basket—that is, a basket which will hold a bushel of potatoes. Make your hills as peaked as possible, the more so the better, thus giving an opportunity of setting the plants high in the hill, and plenty of room below for the potatoes to grow to good size.

You are now ready to set the plants, which should be done with care in the top of the hill, leaving a hollow around each plant that will hold a pint of water; and if the weather is dry, water them. The best time for setting any plants is in the cold of evening, or say after 5 o'clock P. M. Next morning water again early, and they will generally need no more. We never wait for rain, and indeed our plants always do enough better to pay for watering, unless it is raining when we set them. In setting, be careful to set deep enough so the plants will not lop over, and be very careful not to cover the heart of the plant—they should be out at the top of the hill about three inches. In buying plants, don't select them a foot long or more—such are not worth carrying home—but short, stocky plants are the sort, one of which is worth a dozen of poorly managed "lightning rods."

For after culture, all that is necessary is to keep down the weeds, which we do by scraping the hill down with hoes until final hoeing time, which will generally be from the 15th to last of July, or when the tops begin to mat over the hills, when we turn the vines from between the rows, and run the shovel plow through them both ways, throwing up the fresh soil as high as possible on the hills, thus diminishing greatly the hand work. We then hoe them, making the hills about the same size they were when first made, being careful not to cover the heart or place where the vines branch out from. The hills should be made as peaked as they will stand, and not too large, thus giving the potatoes while growing the power to burst the hills and grow to large size. We have never yet taken a large sweet potato from a large flat hill; the reason of which we think is, the earth lays too heavily on the growing potatoes, thus preventing them from growing to large size, as they have not power enough to burst the hills. We have been thus particular in this, as we believe herein lies the secret of growing large potatoes. Next spread the vines evenly over the hills, and your work is done till digging time, if no weeds appear; if they do, they must be destroyed. Don't neglect this, for we have known a number of persons to do nine-tenths of the work necessary to raise a good crop, and yet almost entirely fail, for the want of a little extra labor. G. S. Innis.

Columbus, May, 1857.

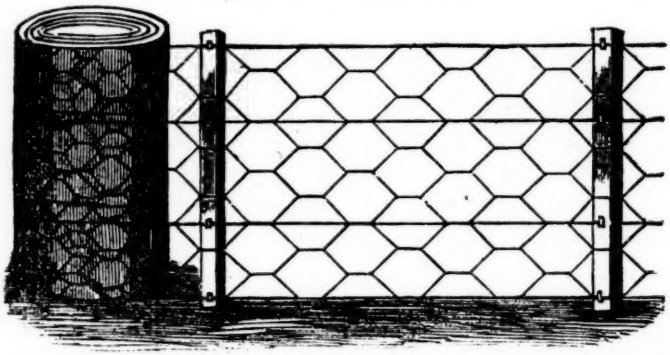
Cleaning Wool for Market.—The following method of preparing wool for market, is followed by Messrs. Perkins and Brown, of Ohio, extensive wool growers:

They first wet the wool by immersing the sheep in the water. Then allow the sheep to stand in the yard until they become warm. The oil in the wool thus becomes soapy, and it requires but a little labor afterwards to wash them entirely clean. This writer recommends that sheep be washed until the water runs away from them clear and clean. They should be sheared as soon as dry, which will be, if the weather be fine, in about three days from the time they were washed.

It was formerly customary, and is now, to some extent, for the person who washes, to stand in the water up to his hips until the whole flock be washed. This is not necessary, and can be avoided by taking a tight barrel, with one head out, or a hogshead sawed off at a proper height, and sinking it into the stream by putting in rocks or other heavy substances. The washer can then stand in this and operate in a somewhat dryer condition than when immersed in the water.

A very good method where one does not have deep water convenient for him to plunge his sheep in, is to make a flume or sluice in some stream large enough to contain a sheep. Into this the sheep may be placed and washed. The water may be suffered to run off, and the flume again filled for another sheep, while the operator, standing on the outside, can work and keep himself dry at the same time.

THE LOWELL WIRE FENCING.



The cost of fencing to the landholders of the United States, would appear almost fabulous, if stated in round numbers—and yet if any owner of a farm would take an account of its cost to himself personally, he would soon find that the estimate made by the late Nicholas Biddle, Esq., of Philadelphia, is in the main correct, that "*the fences of Pennsylvania alone, cost no less than* $100,000,000, *together with an annual expenditure, in repairs, of at least* $10,000,000!" Burnap, a writer on the same subject, also estimates that "*the fences of this country cost more than twenty times the amount of all the specie that is in it!*" Mr. Biddle said that his estimate was carefully made, and most justly observed, that "*it is this enormous burden which keeps down the agricultural interests of this country, causing an untold expenditure, besides the loss of land the Fences occupy.*"

To remedy this great evil to the agriculturists of the country, various plans have been suggested. The beautiful Osage Orange, and other hedge plants have been introduced, in some States very successfully, but the attention requisite for their perfection, and the time necessary for their growth, to enable them to take the place of the ordinary fence, is incompatible with the go-ahead disposition of our people; therefore, beautiful as they are, the progress in their adoption is slow. The wire fence has also been introduced, but, so far, but little progress has been made—though in a visit to the National Capitol some months since, we noticed that the structure erected of this material, near the Savage Factory, by Col. H. Capron, and figured and described in our journal some six or seven years ago, was still apparently in good order—but it has not appeared to have met with such favor as to induce the neighbors to follow his example. George W. Dobbin, Esq., also made the trial at the same time, and furnished us with a description of his fence, and the mode of erecting it; and we would be pleased to hear from him as to his success, and whether, so far as his experience is concerned, it can be economically and efficiently introduced. We acknowledge our fears for the result, on any extensive scale, still we believe it can be advantageously used, and at the same time be made an ornament to the homestead, in beautifying the grounds around the dwelling. In a recent visit to Henry Carroll, Esq., of Baltimore County, we were highly gratified to find the introduction of the wire fence around his mansion, to preserve the shrubbery and flowers from the trespass of his sheep, which he had collected in a lot encircling it, having been obliged by the frequent irruptions of worthless curs, to remove them closer to his dwelling. We found that the wire used by Mr. Carroll, was upon a different plan from that heretofore described in the Farmer; as the annexed cut will show; and was obtained from E. Whitman & Co., of Baltimore, agents for J. E. Butts, Jr. & Co., of Lowell. The meshes, however, of Mr. Carroll's fence, are but 3 inches square, being intended particularly for sheep, and 2¾ feet high, with but three lateral No. 10 wires; the body work is of No. 14 wire—the whole weighing 7¼ lbs. to the rod, and costs $1.50 per rod. The specimen in the above cut is 3¾ feet high, the lateral wires, 4 in number, are of No. 8, and the body of No. 11 wire, weighs 12 lbs., and sells also at $1.50 per rod—Nos. 10 and 12 wire, same height, $1.25 per rod, the weight of the wire being but 10 lbs. This latter is much used at the East, along railroads and canals, and is lighter than that at $1.50, which is more suitable for exposed situations, road fences, and wherever an unusual degree of strength is required; the meshes are too large for a sheep enclosure, as the lambs would be apt to get their heads in them; hence Mr. Carroll prefers the smaller meshes for his purposes. He informs us that the fencing can be erected by any country carpenter, and the expense is about 50 cents per rod, exclusive of the wire, which is annealed, and is from 1-3 to 1-16 of an inch in diameter, according to the character of the fence desired, and the use for which it is designed.

The fence is varnished with asphaltum blacking, which protects it from oxydizing or rusting, and imparts to it a brilliant black color; but the same purposes may be served by coating it with gas tar, japanning, paint, or by galvanizing. If put up properly, it is said to form a barrier to all farm stock.

The posts to which the fence is secured, are of wood; but they may be of iron or stone; or trees may be used in lieu of posts, where convenient. The Fence is raised from four to twelve inches from the level of the ground, and is drawn straight and moderately tight, and kept upon an exact level (or regular inclination) from one end to another. The posts are set, say ten feet apart, and to these the netting is secured by staples, (or by screws with hook-heads,) one staple being used to each lateral wire at each post; and no rails whatever are needed.

The prices of the several kinds vary, according to the height and weight of the Fence, the size of the mesh, the number and dimensions of the wire, etc. The Fence is furnished in portable rolls of from 20 to 25 rods each; and any farmer has sufficient mechanical skill to buy it, unroll it, and set it up as he pleases.

LIME AND MARL.

It is generally conceded by observant farmers who have paid attention to the subject, and have experimented with guano and lime and marl, that the same amount of money which has been spent in guano would have led to much more permanent results, had it been spent in the application of lime and other calcareous manures.

In connection with the subject of the introduction of the use of these manures into our agriculture, we understand there are manuscripts of much interest among the papers of the owner of the Bell Farm, in Gloucester Co., Va., (F. Lewis Taylor, Esq.,) or those of Col. J. Parke Corbin, dating prior to any thing ever published in this country on the subject. If these MSS. are the production of the author of *Arator*, as we are led to suppose, they will be singularly interesting to those who have read and admired that eminently practical and useful work, and bear additional testimony to the intelligence and sagacity of the distinguished author.

If not inconsistent with the views of the gentlemen mentioned, we should be happy to have these MSS, and make them public, either in whole or by extracts, as may be advisable.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE FOR FODDER.—Mr. Prince, the horticulturist of Flushing, N. Y., in a communication received too late to give entire, suggests that the Chinese Sugar Cane can be availed of, by being planted as late as the middle of June, and urges all who can get the seed to put some in, to eke out the supplies necessary for stock, and there can be nothing better for feeding beeves and milch cows. We have none of the seed now on hand.

COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK.

In alluding to the apparatus advertised by Hedges, Mockbee & Co. in our paper, we promised to notice more fully the experiment of Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, in feeding stock with boiled and unboiled food.

Mr. Clay's experiment was commenced on the 16th day of July, with six barrows, each about twelve months old. We shall indicate each hog by the same number throughout the experiment. Their several weights, at the time they were put up, were as follows.

No. 1,	255 pounds	No. 4,	240 pounds
" 2,	285 "	" 5,	265 "
" 3,	240 "	" 6,	245 "

These were all fed for *twelve days* alike, on cooked meal reduced to a thin slop, so that they could easily *drink* it; and also on dry corn at the same time. At the end of twelve days, they were again weighed, showing the following increase:

No. 1,	294 pounds.	Gain,	39 pounds.
" 2,	318 "	"	33 "
" 3,	290 "	"	50 "
" 4,	276 "	"	36 "
" 5,	290 "	"	25 "
" 6,	282 "	"	37 "

The hogs were then separated, No. 1 and 2 were put in a pen to themselves, and fed on boiled corn *thirty* days. The corn consumed was 390 pounds, or 6 bushels and 54 pounds when dry. Under this treatment No. 1 gained 50 lbs. No. 2 gained 52 pounds. The two together gained 102 pounds.

Nos. 3 and 4 were put together in a pen and fed the same length of time on boiled meal, reduced to *thin slop*. The meal consumed, when dry, weighed 270 pounds, equal to 4 bushels and 46 pounds. No. 3 gained 30 pounds, and No. 4 gained 50 pounds—both together gained 80 lbs.

Nos. 5 and 6 were fed on dry corn for the same period, and consumed 405 pounds, equal to 7 bushels and 13 pounds. No. 5 gained 10 pounds, and No. 6 gained 32 pounds, or both together gained 42 pounds.

We illustrate the whole in tabular form as follows:

Nos.	Bushels Consumed.	Gain in Thirty Days.
1 and 2	6 and 54 lbs. Boiled Corn.	102 Pounds.
3 " 4	4 " 46 " " Meal.	80 "
5 " 6	8 " 13 " Dry Corn.	42 "

Lbs. of Pork to 1 Bush. Corn.	Corn per Bush.	Cost of Pork per lb.
1 and 2	14 Lbs. 65-100.	28 Cents.	1 Cent, 9 Mills.
3 and 4	16 " 61-100.	28 "	1 " 6 "
5 and 6	5 " 80-100.	28 "	4 " 8 "

At the end of 30 days the hogs were changed and fed as follows: Nos. 5 and 6 that had been fed on dry corn, were changed and fed on cooked meal for 26 days; they consumed in that time 234 pounds of meal, or 6 bushels and 10 lbs. No. 5 gained 40 pounds, and No. 6 gained 34 pounds—the two together gained 74 pounds.

Numbers 3 and 4, that had been fed on cooked meal, were fed the same length of time on dry corn; they consumed 364 pounds, or 6½ bushels. No. 3 gained 34 pounds, No. 4 gained 10 pounds—the two together gained 44 pounds.

Nos. 1 and 2 were continued on the boiled corn with about the same result as on the first trial.—The following table shows the result of the second trial:

Nos.	Bushels Consumed	Gain in 26 Days
5 and 6	4 and 10 lbs. Boiled Meal.	74 Pounds.
3 " 4	6 " 28 " Dry Corn.	44 "

Lbs. of Pork to 1 Bush. Corn.	Corn per Bush.	Cost of Pork per lb.
5 and 6 17 Lbs. 72-100	28 Cents.	1 Cent, 5 Mills.
3 and 4 6 " 77-100	58 "	4 " 1 "

[From the Cincinnati Daily Commercial.]

"COOKED FOOD FOR CATTLE.—The advantages of using cooked food for cattle can be so easily verified by experiment, that it must soon be generally adopted by cattle growers and dairymen.—The food thus given is more easily and perfectly digested, and will, consequently, produce a much larger amount of good meat, and pure, rich milk, than given in any other form. A well informed milkman, who has used the apparatus manufactured and sold by Messrs. HEDGES & FREE, of the Little Giant Corn Mill Works, for cooking food for cattle and hogs, sends us the following:—

"I commenced the use of the Steam Boiler on the 7th inst., at which time my ten cows gave sixty and a half quarts. My daily feed was ten buckets of middlings, and corn and cob meal about equal parts. On the 9th reduced the feed two buckets. On the 14th gave seventy-seven and a half quarts. My milk has improved in quality, and my cows in appearance. C. M. DAVIS, Milkman."

"CINCINNATI, Dec. 15th, 1856.

From this it appears that the gain in seven days was seventeen quarts; being 28 per cent. gain in milk, with a saving of 20 per cent. in food. The milk produced from such food is altogether different, both in quality and appearance.

THE HORSE CHARM; OR THE GREAT SECRET FOR TAMING HORSES.

The horse-castor is a wart, or excrescence, which grows on every horse's fore legs and generally on the hind legs. It has a peculiar rank, musty smell, and easily pulled off. The ammoniacal effluvia of the horse seems peculiarly to concentrate in this part, and its very strong odor has a great attraction for all animals, especially canine, and the horse himself.

For the oil of cumin, the horse has an instinctive passion—both are original natives of Arabia, and when the horse scents the odor, he is instinctively drawn toward it.

The oil of Rhodium possesses peculiar properties. All animals seem to cherish a fondness for it, and it exercises a kind of subduing influence over them.

The directions given for taming horses are as follows:

Procure some horse-castor, and grate it fine. Also get some oil of Rhodium and oil of cumin, and keep the three separate in air-tight bottles.

Rub a little oil of cumin upon your hand; and approach the horse in the field, on the windward side, so that he can smell the cumin. The horse will let you come up to him then without any trouble.

Immediately rub your hand gently on the horse's nose, getting a little of the oil on it. You can then lead him anywhere. Give him a little of the castor on a piece of loaf sugar, apple or potato.

Put 8 drops of oil of Rhodium into a lady's silver thimble. Take the thimble between the thumb and middle finger of your right hand, with the forefinger stopping the mouth of the thimble, to prevent the oil from running out whilst you are opening the mouth of the horse.

As soon as you have opened the horse's mouth tip the thimble over upon his tongue and he is your servant. He will follow you like a pet dog.

Ride fearless and promptly, with your knees pressed to the side of the horse, and your toes turned in and heels out; then you will always be on the alert for a shy or sheer from the horse, and he can never throw you.

Then if you want to teach him to lie down, stand on his nigh, or left side; have a couple of leather straps about six feet long; string up his left leg with one of them round his neck; strap the other end of it over his shoulders; hold it in your hand, and when you are ready, tell him to lie down, at the same time, gently, firmly and steadily pulling on the strap, touching him lightly on the knee with a switch. The horse will immediately lie down. Do this a few times, and you can make him lie down without the straps.

He is now your pupil and friend. You can teach him anything, only be kind to him, be gentle. Love him, and he will love you. Feed him before you do yourself. Shelter him well, groom him yourself, keep him clean, and at night always give him a good bed, at least a foot deep.

In the winter season, don't let your horse stand out a long time in the cold, without shelter or covering; for remember that the horse is an aboriginal native of a warm climate, and in many respects, his constitution is as tender as a man's.—*Selected.*

FINE STOCK FOR TENNESSEE.—We learn from the Boston Cultivator, that Messrs. Fanning and Allen, of Nashville, Tenn., as agents of the "Tennessee Stock Company," lately visited that section, and have purchased various animals, as follows:

Horses.—1. "The Eaton Horse"—a descendant of the Hayward, or Kennebec Messenger—purchased of Mr. Beale, Winthorp, Me. 2. "Membrino Messenger," purchased in Dutchess county, N. Y. 3. Four "Messenger colts." 4. "Three Messenger mares and one Bellfounder mare." 5. "Naugatuck"—by Vermont Black Hawk, dam a "Membrino mare." 6. "Young Green Mountain"—by Hale's Green Mountain—from Windsor county, Vt. 7. A chestnut mare, by Green Mountain, and two Morgan fillies.

Cattle.—1. Four Devons from Geo. Vail, of Troy, N. Y. 2. A Devon bull calf from Mr. Griffith, near Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Sheep.—1. Five South Downs purchased of D. B. Haight, of Dutchess county, N. Y., among which is a ram bred in England by Jonas Webb. 2. Spanish Merinos from the flock of Mr. Lovering, of Windsor county, Vt. 3. Saxons and Silesians from J. D. and W. H. Ladd, of Richmond, Ohio.

Swine.—1. One boar and two sows (Suffolks) from J. & I. Stickney, of Boston. 2. Essex boar and sow from Charles B. Clark, of Concord, Mass. 3. Two pair of Berkshires from Dutchess county, N. Y. 4. A pair of Neapolitans from J. D. & W. H. Ladd, of Richmond, Ohio.

TRIAL OF REAPERS, &c.—The following list of Premiums, and other particulars, are presented by the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, for the trial of Harvesting and other machinery, to take place about the 1st July, at the farm of Judge Chambers, near Chestertown, Kent Co., Md.

As a great public good, to the farming interests, is anticipated by this trial, we hope all editors who have patrons of that numerous and influential class, will either publish this circular, or give a synopsis of it in their papers, at an early day.

$500 IN PREMIUMS.

GREAT TRIAL OF REAPERS, MOWERS,

And other Harvesting Machines and Implements, to be held at Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, in the latter part of June, 1857, *by the Maryland State Agricultural Society, at which premiums will be awarded, as follows:*

To the best Reaper and Mower combined, with or or without self-raking attachment, $100
To the best Reaper with self-raking attachment, 75
To the best Reaper, 50
To the best Mower, 50
To the best Automaton Rake, capable of being attached or applied with facility, and at reasonable cost to Reapers of various construction, $30
To the best implement for gleaning wheat fields and raking hay, 20
To the best implement for gleaning wheat fields, 15

NOTE.—A Reaper and Mower combined, with or without self-raking attachment, may compete with a simple Mower in mowing.

The sum of $150 will be awarded in premiums to any new and valuable harvesting machines or implements, not enumerated above, which may be exhibited and tested; or in second premiums to the above named machines and implements, at the discretion of the Judges. In the absence of competition, premiums shall not be awarded to unworthy machines or implements that may be exhibited.

If practicable the Mowers shall be tested both in low land and upland grass, and also in wet grass.

In all cases the exhibitor shall be required to state in writing that the machine or implement exhibited, is precisely the same as to finish, material and workmanship, as those regularly kept by him for sale, and to state also the usual selling price of the article.

The machines and implements to which premiums may be awarded, shall be exhibited at the next Annual Exhibition of the Society, at which time premiums will be paid either in cash or in medals, at the option of the recipients.

The Judges are requested to make an extended report, setting forth the reason for their awards, the peculiar points of excellence and of defect in the several machines and implements exhibited, and their relative merits.

The trial of Reapers, &c., will take place near Chestertown, Kent Co., Md., on fields of the Hon. E. F. Chambers and others, who will designate the particular day on which it will commence; of which due notice will be published in the newspapers, by S. Sands, the Secretary of the Society, from whom any further information may be obtained.

JUDGES APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

HON. E. F. CHAMBERS, *Chestertown,*
JAMES T. EARLE, ESQ., *Centreville,*
COL. GEO. W. HUGHES, *West River,*
N. B. WORTHINGTON, ESQ., *Baltimore,*
JOHN Q. HEWLETT, ESQ., *Baltimore,*
HON. J. A. PEARCE, *Chestertown,*
JOHN MERRYMAN, ESQ., *Cockeysville,*
JAMES N. GOLDSBOROUGH, ESQ, *Easton,*
GEO. R. DENNIS, ESQ., *Frederick.*

ALTERNATES:

S. T. C. BROWN, ESQ., *Sykesville,*
BENJAMIN HOWARD, ESQ., *Kent Co,*
SAMUEL H. DORSET, ESQ., *Davidsonville,*
MARTIN GOLDSBOROUGH, ESQ., *Baltimore,*
COL. J. EMORY, *Centreville,*
THOMAS LOVE, ESQ., *Cockeysville,*
JAMES TILGHMAN, ESQ., OF JOHN, *Queen Anne's Co.*
HENRY CARROLL, JR., ESQ., *Westerman's Mills.*

In case nine of the Judges or Alternates appointed do not serve, those acting are empowered to fill vacancies on the spot.

Arrangements will be made for the conveyance of passengers and machines from Baltimore to Chestertown on reasonable terms, and at the proper period, of which due notice will be given in the public prints.

By order of the Executive Committee of Md. State Agricultural Society,

M. TILGHMAN GOLDSBOROUGH,
Chairman of the Com. of Arrangements.

BALTIMORE, May 12th, 1857.

TRIAL OF IMPLEMENTS BY THE U. S. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This trial, a notice of which was recently published in the Farmer, is to take place at Syracuse, N. Y., (instead of Louisville, Kentucky, as before announced,) from 6th to 13th July. The rules and regulations will be published in the second edition of the premium list. Persons intending to compete should make known their intention immediately, to the Secretary, H. S. Olcott, Esq., at the American Institute, New York:—

PREMIUMS ON HARVESTING IMPLEMENTS.

Reaper—best, Grand Gold Medal and Diploma; second best, Large Silver Medal; third best, Large Bronze Medal.

Mower—best, Grand Gold Medal and Diploma; second best, Large Silver Medal; third best, Large Bronze Medal.

Reaper and Mower combined—best, Grand Gold Medal and Diploma; second best, Large Silver Medal; third best, Large Bronze Medal.

Automaton Rake, transferable from one Machine to another, best, Large Silver Medal; second best, Large Bronze Medal.

Clover and Grass Seed Harvester—best, Silver Medal and Diploma.

Hay Rake—best, Silver Medal and Diploma; second best, Bronze Medal.

Tedding Machine—best, Silver Medal and Diploma; second best, Bronze Medal.

Hay or Cotton Press—best, Silver Medal and Diploma; second best, Bronze Medal.

A number of Discretionary Premiums will be placed at the disposal of the Judges, to be awarded to meritorious articles, not included in this schedule.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, June 1, 1857.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Per Annum, $1 in advance—6 copies for $5—13 copies for $10—30 copies for $20.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For 1 square of 8 lines, for each insertion, $1—1 square per annum, $10—larger advertisements in proportion—for a page, $100 per annum; a single insertion, $15, and $12 50 for each subsequent insertion, not exceeding five. Address,

S. SANDS & WORTHINGTON,
Publishers of the "American Farmer,"

At the *State Agricultural Society's Rooms*, 128 Baltimore-st. Over the "American Office," 5th door from North-st.

Maryland State Agricultural Society.

The Regular Meeting of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held on TUESDAY, the 2d of JUNE, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the Society's Room in Baltimore. As the Premium List will be arranged, and other important matters relative to the next Exhibition will come before this meeting, a prompt attendance is requested.

By order of RAMSAY M'HENRY, Esq., President,
May 1 2t SAM'L SANDS, General Secretary.

CLOSING OF THE 12th VOLUME.

This number closes the 12th Volume of the AMERICAN FARMER—and in tendering our unfeigned thanks for the cheering support, and the manifestations of kind feeling displayed towards our journal and its conductors, we would most respectfully solicit a continuance thereof. We know and feel that we are engaged in a *good work*—a work which commends its results to the kind regards of every philanthropic mind,—we have the unmistakable evidences of the approbation and encouragement, both by word and deed, of those who know us best—and we are sure they will be gratified in knowing, that at no period since our connexion with the FARMER, now (with one of us) verging on to a quarter of a century, has our journal been so prosperous and remunerating—nor, we have reason to believe, more useful and acceptable to its readers. During the past month, since we issued our prospectus for the next volume, (and for which we refer to the cover of the present number) we have received assurances from warm-hearted friends of their intention to canvass their neighborhoods for additions to our list. We thank them, most heartily, for such a manifestation of their appreciation of our labors and services; and we can only promise them in return, that our utmost efforts will, in the future, be exerted, to prove to those to whom they may present our claims for support, that they have received far more than had been anticipated.

There are few of our subscribers, but can add one name to our list, even if opportunity does not offer to effect a greater increase—Will they try?

Our Terms are,

For One Copy, 1 year,	$1
" Six Copies, "	$5
" Thirteen Copies, 1 year,	$10
" Thirty Copies "	$20

☞ Those who may be making up clubs, can forward such names as they may have received, in time for our July issue, and can add to their lists afterwards.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.

The very insignificance of the amount required for the yearly subscription to the "*Farmer*," causes many to omit forwarding their *dollar*, who would not lose an hour in remitting if the sum due was a hundred times greater—this delay, however, frequently causes inconvenience to the publishers, whose payments for paper, printing, and incidentals, (to say nothing about provision for *growing* families) are in large amounts, and generally in cash or its equivalent, which are to be made up by these atoms of $1 each. However, we are not now going to inflict a dun, but to state a case which appeals to the good sense and tender consciences of all who may be in the same category with the writer; 'tis true, that during the past year, there has been a pretty much hurrying up "to the Captain's office to settle," and an unusual number of those who had overlooked their indebtedness to the old "*Farmer*," have made amends by making payment in advance for several years—but "there are a few more left of the same sort," which we have a strong faith will, before the coming first day of January, in the year of our Lord 1858, enable us to have a new set books, just preparing for the new volume, to present a "clean bill of health." But to our purpose. A subscriber in Darien, Georgia, remits us for 10 years subscription, to July, 1863, in the following terms—May he, with us, be spared to see the end of the term, and a renewal of the same for ten years more:

"GENTLEMEN:—I paid the first year for your paper in advance, but am sorry to say for several years I am just the reverse.

Enclosed you will find ten dollars; please pay yourselves, principal and interest, and place the remainder to advance for your valuable paper; I hope by the time that is exhausted I shall again remember the Editors of the American Farmer."

CHEERING.—We learn from various sources, that our kind friends are making arrangements for a goodly increase to our subscription list for the new volume—this is particularly the case in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee—a letter from the latter State, dated Knoxville, upon other business, adds:

"I am making up a club of 30 subscribers, for the Farmer; and will send on the names, with the money, in a few days."

A list from Albemarle, Va., is also received, and more promised from same source.

We hope this feeling in behalf of our Journal will be universal, so that the "*Old Pioneer*" will be able to go ahead of all its juvenile competitors.

PERUVIAN GUANO.—*Expected supply, independent of the Barredas.*—By late intelligence from Peru, we learn "that the revolutionists are selling guano at $12 to $20 per ton, and having possession of the islands are loading some eight vessels with all dispatch. They are also chartering at $20 to $26 per ton. We learn further, that some 5 to 6000 tons were already shipped, and as fast as vessels could be obtained, they would be loaded for this country, and will be here it is expected in time for fall seeding of wheat. An old merchant in a position to know, assures us we may expect a supply by these means. Let purchasers act accordingly. By this means, together with the use of the Phosphatic Guanos mixed with the Peruvian—and by a more general introduction of the guano attachment to the wheat drill, whereby a saving of two thirds of the Peruvian Guano may probably be secured, and an equal effect realized in the immediate crop to which it is applied to that obtained by broadcasting as heretofore, when 2 to 300 lbs. were sown, we will be able we hope, to dispense with the services of the old Agency here.

The editor of the Petersburg Va. Intelligencer, speaking of the introduction of other guanos, by a New York company, says, "we want to see this grinding concern [the Peruvian Agency] well disciplined and compelled to undergo a reduction of revenue to a sufficient amount to make them feel the loss.—This would be nothing more than a just retribution for the merciless and intolerable exactions which have distinguished the dealings of the Peruvian Government and its agents, with the cultivators of the soil, from the beginning down to the present time—All our agriculturists are anxious to be delivered from the oppressive and rapacious extortions of the Peruvian monopolists, and would hail with delight and patronize with enthusiasm a competition which would produce such an effect."

AMERICAN GUANO CO.—It is said that a few tons of the guano from the islands of this company, in the Pacific, have been received, and will be placed in the hands of agriculturists by the Patent Office, for experiment—and that 100 tons are on the way in another vessel. We published in our July No. of the present volume, the analysis of four samples of this guano, to which we refer the reader. We hope that the highest expectations of the company may be realized, and that this guano may be the means of relieving us of the Peruvian monopoly—but from the analysis alluded to, we have little expectation of its competing with the Peruvian—sorry are we to have to say it.

COTSWOLD WOOL.

In our last, we noticed a sample of wool, from a Cotswold sheep, raised in Kentucky by Wm. Warfield, Esq. We have since received samples from a yearling buck and ewe, belonging to the flock of *Henry Carroll*, Esq., of Baltimore Co., Md., which, upon comparison, are fully equal to that from Mr. Warfield's, according to the opinion of a competent judge. Being in the neighborhood, we recently had the pleasure of making a call on Mr. Carroll, and had the opportunity of seeing his flock of Cotswolds, and we have no hesitation in the expression of the opinion, that, taking the same number of animals for the comparison, they are not to be surpassed by any other flock in this country, or probably in Great Britain. Mr. C. has given this branch of husbandry his particular attention and study, and no expense or care has been spared in selecting and breeding from the best flocks in the U. S. and England. We assure those fond of fine stock, that a visit to Mr. C's. farm will amply repay them for their trouble, if they wish to see this popular breed of sheep in its purity and beauty. We noticed in a lawn in front of his mansion about 30 or 40 of the youngest of his flock, and we can truly say that we were almost enraptured with the spectacle before us. Mr. C. it will be seen by his advertisement on another page, will offer, this fall, as usual, some of his buck lambs, for sale. He has generally, when he has been a competitor at our State Shows, carried off the highest honors for the best pen of buck lambs, beside other premiums. The samples of the wool alluded to above, can be seen at our office.

COLOMBIAN GUANO.—We have heard casually of some trials of the Colombian Guano, showing very favorable results from its application, and have reason in our own experience to be much pleased with it, where we have been able to give it a fair trial; especially as to the permanency of its action. A statement from Mr. J. W. Brown, a farmer of Prince George's Co., gives very strong testimony in its favor, estimating its effects upon corn last year as one third greater than Peruvian or Manipulated Guano used in same quantity, and thus far this season superior to Peruvian on wheat. We should be very glad to hear from others of our subscribers who have used it.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILROAD.—A very general impression has taken hold of the public mind, interested in the trade of this road, that the local interests along its route, have been most disastrously, to the farmers and producers, overslaughed, for the benefit of distant trade.

[From the Baltimore County Advocate.]

A farmer near the centre of the county, who is largely engaged in raising and packing hay for the Baltimore market, informs us that the tariff of charges on the Northern Central Railway operates very much against that business. The former price of freight on a car load of pressed hay from his switch was formerly between $3 and $4; now the freight is between $8 and $10. This class of freight is now mostly taken from the Railroad, farmers finding it cheaper to haul to market in wagons. Thus it seems that railroad companies are making great efforts to procure trade from distant regions, while our farmers, who yearly pay tax to pay interest, the principal of which went to construct these railroads, are debarred from the privilege of using them with advantage.

AN EXCURSION TO VIRGINIA.

We were challenged recently to an agricultural excursion, by that estimable gentleman, Dr. Wm. R. Holt, of Lexington, N. C., well known for his love and appreciation of the best things pertaining to agriculture in all its departments The fame of Mr. R. H. Dulany's importations of choice stock, attracted our friend, and we gladly availed ourselves of so agreeable an opportunity to gratify our own desire to see them, and make a pleasant agricultural visit.

Taking the four o'clock morning train, we steamed over to Washington, took an omnibus to the steamboat, a steamboat to Alexandria, then an omnibus, over a most rough pavement, to the depot of the Orange and Manasses Gap Railroad. Taking the cars again, we had a run of several hours, branching off upon the Manasses Gap Railroad, and reaching our stopping place, the Rector Town Station, about a quarter past ten. We saw nothing more worthy of note in our rapid transit, than a stray politician or two; but the greenest of these are not strictly agricultural productions, and do not come within the scope of our notes.

A Northern man who sat by us as we passed through Fairfax, and was familiar with the country, remarked upon the improvements made by the Northern settlers here—commending their prudence and friendly disposition to their Virginia neighbors, and making the significant observation that they even took pains "to get rid of their peculiarities of expression and pronunciation, and to adopt those of the Virginians." The hint is worthy of note by those who hope or fear anything from Mr. Eli Thayer's colonization scheme, in influencing the public sentiment of Virginia. Whatever mad notions may disturb the brains of men who seem incapable of any sober judgment when the subject of slavery is involved, it may be very safely set down that the mass of the people who may come to Virginia, will not come as political crusaders, but for profitable investment, and will be quite "sharp" enough to mind their own business, and even to conform themselves in a measure, to the people among whom they settle. Come in what numbers they may, the stanch old State will absorb them into her system, and work them up into the bone and sinew of her body politic, while such men as Thayer and his confederates, hatched into life by the foul and heated air of the abolition fermentation, will find a wholesome outdoor atmosphere too strong for their feeble health, and betake them again to the hot-beds where they were generated.

We heard afterwards that the results of these Fairfax improvements had not been so satisfactory as has been supposed. Virginia laborers, especially the free negroes, it is said, are so diligent in nothing as in shunning these Northern task-masters. It is one of the peculiar charges of the slave sympathisers, that the poor oppressed negroes are not made to do more than half a day's work. When the Northern man comes to Virginia, the complaint is, that he guages his allowance of "victuals and drink" in accordance with his ideas of Cuffee's capacity for labour, but undertakes at the same time to mend his manners, by compelling him to do the full day's work of a Northern laborer. Cuffee both rebels against the short commons, and refuses to be reformed, and the consequence is, that he and his new made friends part in mutual disgust. The question between North and South being thus put to him in a practical way, he decides emphatically, in the language of a colored gentleman of our acquaintance—"My feelings, Sir, am *all* with the Souf."

Two hours' ride from the Rector Town Station, brought us to the estate and residence of Mr. R. H. Dulany, where we were received with characteristic Virginia hospitality. This estate is in Loudon county, about thirty miles south-west of the Potomac, and six miles east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The country is high, rolling and fertile, and amply watered with very fine streams. The abundance of water, and the noble blue grass pastures, make it eminently a grazing country—some of the large land-holders grazing a hundred or more head of cattle for the butcher. Mr. D's property, of some sixteen hundred acres, is divided into fields of sixty to a hundred acres each, enclosed by permanent stone fencing, of which there is not less than fifteen miles, erected at an estimated cost of ten to twelve thousand dollars. Every field, we think, has more or less open wood land, clear of undergrowth, affording protection from storms, and shade for the stock, and adding greatly to the beauty of this highly picturesque region.

These natural blue grass pastures are the great agricultural feature of this section. Whether this grass is identical with the famous Kentucky blue grass, varying in some degree with the character and condition of the soil, some of the most critical judges are not determined. We think it is not. It *is*, however, the native blue grass, known throughout Virginia and Maryland as a pest in the corn and wheat fields, as forming a first rate bottom for a sure crop of corn, provided it be properly prepared, and as a pasture grass unsurpassed. On these Loudon county lands, it holds supremacy by right of possession, and if subdued by years of culture, it does not fail, in a few years of rest, to drive out again the hardiest usurpers. No seed are ever sown, nor have we ever known them to be sown. An old sod being broken up, it is worked for some years in cleansing crops, and manured. Corn is planted on the sod, and there is a succession of wheat and corn again, with clover intervening, for five or six years—the rotation being concluded with clover, to which Mr. D. now adds orchard grass; these, in a few years are superseded by the blue grass, which is now left for seven or eight years in undisturbed possession. Nothing in the way of grazing, exceeds the richness and hardiness of this invaluable pasture grass. Cattle will fatten, when the bite is so short they can scarcely take hold of it, and it thrives and thickens, under a degree of grazing that would be fatal to ordinary grasses. Mr. Dulany assured us, that the fattest lot of cattle he has ever sold, were finished off upon a turf so parched by drought, that it crackled under the tread of his foot. We wish that the planters and grain growers of the Middle and Southern States, would take a hint from the tenacity with which this

grass clings to their soil, when their system of cultivation for centuries, has aimed only to eradicate it. That they would find their account in mixing in their husbandry the grazing and feeding of stock, we have no doubt; and nature, by furnishing to their hand a perfectly hardy, rich pasture grass, both indicates the propriety of such a system, and furnishes the best means for its support.

The cattle for grazing in this country, are purchased about September. We did not ascertain what provision is made for their shelter during winter.—They are fed upon the turf in the field—the fodder and un-shucked corn being hauled and strewn together on the ground. Mr. D. has made experiments in feeding with crushed corn and cob, and is disposed from the result, to change his mode of feeding.—They consume about a barrel and a half each per head, (the corn feeding commencing, if we recollect aright, about the first of February,) and this brings them in good condition to the grass. We found Mr. Dulany's stock, on the 10th of May of an unusually cold, backward Spring, in good thriving order, and likely to make the best use of the grass they will consume from this time to July, when they are expected to bring about double their first cost. It was mentioned by one of his neighbors, as the practice of the elder Mr. Dulany, one of the most judicious and successful agriculturists of his day, to shut up one pasture field, and preserve the autumn growth of grass for spring use. This grass does not perish in winter, as others less hardy, and as early as the fifteenth of March the cattle are turned in, upon a good bite. We have mentioned, heretofore, the emphatic opinion of this gentleman, founded on his own experience, that clover should by no means be grazed, until it has attained its full development of stem and root; and that for the wheat crop to follow, it is better it should be mowed.

Mr. Dulany's corn crop this year occupies about a hundred and fifty acres, from which he expects an average of eight barrels per acre. It is planted on a blue grass sod, thoroughly turned over to the full average depth of eight inches, and dragged and rolled into fine condition. Two of Sinclair's Planters were in operation, putting in the corn as fast as the land was made ready. The distance of planting is four feet one way and thirty-three inches the other. Mr. Armistead Carter, the near neighbor and friend of Mr. D., whose hospitality we also enjoyed, we found planting three and a half feet each way. These gentlemen have no fear of the consequences of such close planting; they work, however, quick and early, finishing at harvest.

The wheat crop of Mr. D., some three hundred acres, with the exception of one very luxuriant piece of bottom land, has suffered in common with every crop we have seen, from the severity of the extraordinary season. He pointed out to us the remarkable effect of an application of seventy-five pounds of guano, drilled in with the wheat, in sustaining and invigorating the crop, even upon land of good quality. On a portion of the field the guano had been omitted, and it needed no near inspection to see the superiority of the crop on both sides.

Of Mr. Dulany's imported stock, we published some account in our April No., taken from the *Southern Planter*. We have little to add to that beyond the fact, that on personal inspection, they come fully up to the report we before had of them. The Cleaveland, "Scrivington," is a deep, rich, mahogany bay, sixteen and a half hands high, of great style, commanding air, and apparent consciousness of his quality and breeding. His proportions indicate a remarkable combination of power and action. His great value consists in his fitness for breeding the quick active buggy horse, the slower and more substantial coach horse, or the useful horse of all work, varying according to the character of the mare used.—A fine Cleaveland mare, with a promising colt by her side, by Mr. Rives' Emperor, we also saw. Mr. D. has also a number of Morgans, full and half bred. A pair of mares of this breed, are beautiful animals, perfectly matched, of fine style, and groomed to perfection.

The Alderney cows we did not examine critically; they are imported and said to be superior animals. The Durham heifers, obtained from Mr. Webb, we judged to be of very high quality. Their perfect symmetry and freedom from all coarseness, the small clean limbs, mellow skin, fine soft hair, quiet countenance, small tapering neatly set heads, altogether, mark them as unequalled by any thing of the sort we have seen. They are not in perfect condition, one having lost her calf, and the other having a calf by her side, but their quality is unmistakable.

The Berkshires, some imported, and some from the stock of Mr. Morris, are very superior specimens of this best breed of bacon hogs.

The flock of sheep was to us the most interesting portion of this collection of superior stock. A lot of forty yearling wethers had just been sold at 6½ cents per pound, gross weight, without the wool, and would bring, it was estimated at that price, not less than ten dollars per head, including the value of the fleece. The size and condition of these sheep, which had been wintered without grain of any sort, justified this unprecedented price for sheep of that age. They are a cross of the Cotswold on a mixture of Bakewell and South Down. Mr. D. is getting rid of everything but the *thorough bred South Downs*, and his flock of these is such a sight as it has not been our good fortune before to see. They number now, ewes, lambs and bucks, about one hundred and twenty, and for so large a flock, in purity of blood, and general and uniform excellence, are entirely unequalled, we presume, in this country.—About forty of the ewes are imported—a number of them being prize animals, and all selected from the stock of Mr. Jonas Webb, of Babraham, Cambridgeshire. The magnificent buck does credit to that great breeder. Mr. Webb, starting with a stock selected from the best flock in the kingdom, has for more than thirty years been breeding the South Down with the utmost care and skill. Preserving carefully the points in which they have always been unrivalled, quality of mutton, compactness and symmetry of form, and hardiness and vigor of constitution, he has aimed to breed them up to greater weight of fleece. The general success of his breeding, and the very high character of his flock, is attested by his very numerous prizes at the great exhibitions of stock in the kingdom, and the extraordinary prices of his annual lettings of bucks. So far ago as 1846, these lettings for the season of a hundred and seventy-seven bucks, (according to a statement made by Mr. Colman,) ranged from £5 to £52, say $25 to $260. His lettings the past season, we understand, averaged £33. Mr. Webb stated the average weight of fleece of breeding ewes, in 1846, at four pounds, and of a hundred and fifty, to two hundred rams, from one to seven years old, and during a period of seven years, at an average of eight pounds per fleece; the heaviest fleece weighing ten and a half pounds. The average fleece of the breeding ewes of Mr. Dulany, we should put above that stated by Mr. Webb, the result, perhaps, of his breeding since that statement was made.

It is a matter of congratulation to those wishing to breed the South Down, that a stock of such value should be in the hands of a gentleman who will take pride in keeping it up to the highest standard of excellence.

In these hurried notes, while they are extended much beyond the limit we had set, we are conscious of having omitted much that came within our notice, which might have proved of interest, could we have brought it within reasonable bounds; while much of personal gratification and pleasure we pass over as not within the purpose of this article.

THE WEATHER—THE CROPS—THE PROSPECT AHEAD.

The most intense anxiety is now felt throughout the country, in regard to the growing crops. The season, thus far, has been unusually severe, and the result, is still impossible to foresee. We wish not to give unnecessary alarm, but we deem it our duty to give the results of our own observation, and of our inquiries, in regard to those matters which are of such vital importance to those for whose interests we are ever wide awake—Very early in the season, even before the snow and ice was off the ground, we noticed the usual efforts were making to create an impression that the growing wheat crop would be an abundant one; we knew that the winter had been unusually severe upon the wheat plant, the snows that had fallen, having been drifted about, and left the roots of the plants exposed to the thawings of the mild weather of February, which was followed with the severe cold and storms which it afterwards encountered in March—and we consequently, in our *April* No., made an earnest appeal to our friends throughout the middle and grain growing districts, to forward us in time for our May and June numbers, "a faithful and reliable statement of the probable results of the wheat crop." We received and published various responses last month, and several letters and communications intended for that No. were received too late, but are published in the present, with others written during the month of May. So soon as our May No. was issued, the intelligence we were enabled to embody in it, from all quarters of the country, of the unpropitious appearance of the crops, caused an immediate advance in breadstuffs, of every description, which has been gradually going on ever since, and is likely to progress still farther—for notwithstanding the warm and copious rain, which we had on the 2d May, which gave vegetation a fine start, and sent a thrill of joy to the heart of every husbandman, yet it is a fact that since then we have had but one real growing spring day, (Sunday, the 10th,) which was followed by a cold north-east wind on Monday, and a heavy frost was the result on that night—since which we have had a continuation of cold northerly winds and rains, which has given us weather up to the present time (20th) more like November than that of balmy May—and now we have a chilling north-east wind and rain, with a threatening of a north-wester. The consequence is, that many have not been able to plant their corn up to the present time; others have had to replant; and that which has come up is of a yellow, sickly appearance; and if the seed does not rot in the ground before a change in the weather takes place, we shall be most agreeably disappointed. The effects of this backwardness of the season has been most disastrous in many quarters, and thousands of cattle have perished for want of sustenance, the unusually long period in which they have had to be fed, having exhausted their provender and corn; in some instances herds have been driven miles seeking sustenance, the buds of trees being brought into requisition to aid in keeping life in them. We have not the space to devote to the details which we find in the papers from various quarters, but they are heart-rending in the extreme, and show a state of things almost unprecedented. An old farmer in Pennsylvania says it reminds him of the spring and summer of 1816, when there was frost every month, and he remembers well of seeing men reaping with their coats on. He says however, that the wheat was very fine that season, but the corn and oats poor. The cool weather this season, would not affect the wheat prospects, so much, *where the plants are on the ground*, were it not that we have no alternate warmth in the atmosphere—the ground continues very cold, and it would seem almost impossible to make any headway in the growth of plants—the usual time of the wheat harvest is now but a month off, and it is scarcely possible, with the most favorable weather during the month of June, that the harvest can be other than a very late one.

In our last and preceding numbers, we gave our reasons for believing that a decided advance would take place in breadstuffs, particularly in corn, but had no expectation it would have been so sudden and so great as it has been. But shrewd calculators and observers of the times and seasons, know full well, that the supplies on hand are small—that when the crop of 1856 was havested, the wheat crop of the preceding year was nearly exhausted—that the crop of 1856 was not a full average one, and consequently, with the amount exported, and the appearance of the present year's, the supply for the ensuing year will not be equal to the demand, even for our own consumption—added to which, notwithstanding we have heard, by every arrival for months past, until the last, that the crops in Europe promised well, and prices were declining, now the true state of the case is

manifested, and we are told that "Grain and all kinds of breadstuffs were rapidly recovering from the late depression," and all qualities of breadstuffs have advanced in England, France and Spain, and on the continent generally. In Ireland the weather throughout the whole of April has been extremely wet and cold, preventing oat sowing and the preparation of the land for potatoes; this had a great effect on the value of Indian corn, in which a very large business had been done.

In several sections of our country, we find that so small is the supply of food, that not only the stock is suffering, but that the greatest want exists among the poorer classes, in consequence of the scarcity and high prices of corn—strange as it may seem, these accounts locate this suffering in Tennessee, the greatest corn State in the Union, and Michigan, one of the proportionate largest wheat growing States. In Kentucky also we learn from the Louisville papers, that corn "is at famine prices." In New York, in Cattaraugus county, it is said that much of the land will go untilled this season, on account of the want of strength of teams to do the work; oats selling at $1 per bushel for seed.

The Mark Lane (Eng.) Express of 20th April, in reviewing the prospects of the market for grain, says, that "the supplies of wheat had diminished, the previous decline had been recovered, and that there is more confidence in the stability of prices" —and after reviewing the state of the market in Europe, comes to the conclusion, that "there is no stock of fine corn, except in America, on which to depend, should any adverse change take place in the weather" to affect the harvest there.

The Buffalo (N. Y) Commercial Advertiser, at one of the most important points for grain in the United States, after alluding to the advancing tendencies of prices, since the 1st of May, says that the stocks of grain are lighter than usual in the spring at that port, and adds:—

"Flour is a scarce article, and, if we may believe what is said of the mills in Western Ohio, likely to remain so. A gentleman, who says he visited between 50 and 60, informs us that he found them nearly all idle, being unable to procure supplies of wheat. Besides which he says the present winter wheat promises very poorly. From many wheat growing regions, we see similar complaints in the newspapers. These complaints, however, come mainly from the Southern portions of Illinois and Indiana and Western Ohio. In other regions and States there seems to be good prospects of an average yield. We have had letters from friends in the West, one from Northern Wisconsin, all of which agree in saying that the winter has been a long and hard one, and that most articles of farm produce are enormously high. Add to all this the fact, that a large emigration took place last year to territories beyond the Mississippi, which must continue to be fed until next harvest from the product of the last one, and it will be readily understood why, encouraged by a favorable 'turn in the tides' of the foreign markets, there should have been such a sudden and extraordinary demand for and advance in breadstuffs as we have recently witnessed. We do not wish to stimulate what is already sufficiently stimulated, but no one probably will deny that there is a large amount of the grain of truth in the immense quantity of chaffy reports we have lately had in regard to the long winter and winter-killed wheat, the western emigration with so many extra mouths to feed, and the deficiency in the stocks now in store to come forward; and that the tendency is more likely to be upward than downward hence to harvest. But we will wait and see!"

The "turn in the tides" of the foreign markets, it will be seen, has already taken place, and so soon as the state of our crops, as recently shown, is known in Mark lane, we will soon find the England grain market rapidly advancing. The N. Y. Journal of Commerce, the leading commercial paper of N. York, "utters a word of caution to its country friends" not to allow their produce to be withheld from market, because, it says, "the news is more favorable for breadstuffs, and there is now a fair prospect of a more active trade in wheat, flour and Indian corn, in the principal European markets, for several weeks to come—perhaps to the time of the next ingathering, or, if the harvest be short, throughout the year. In anticipation of this, and in connection with the reported damage to the growing crops here, the late season for corn, and the estimates (urged by many) of a limited stock throughout the Western country, there is quite a disposition to renew last season's excitement, and try another round of speculation."

The editor thinks that although the stock of flour and grain is larger than generally supposed, it is not so large but it can be controlled by speculators, and prices inflated beyond any reasonable cause therefor, and thus much injury will result to the public, and eventually to the farmers and operators themselves.

At the West, whiskey has advanced in price, in consequence of the high price and scarcity of corn. At Chicago, a close estimate has been made, and it is found that at all the main grain depots at the West, and leading to N. York, at Buffalo, Galena, Chicago, &c., there were 985,500 bushels corn on 10th April, to 2,158,000 at same date in 1856. It is said by a house in Chicago, that

"The letters addressed to our Reaper manufacturers and Commission merchants (in Chicago) from the States of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Iowa, represent the winter wheat as generally killed, and farmers putting in spring crops when weather will admit of their doing so. The season is so backward that not more than two-thirds of the usual number of acres can be got ready; and being so late, the prospect for what they sow is rather gloomy. We are still having continued cold weather. If it does not shortly change for the better, we shall not raise enough wheat to feed our people. The immense emigration to Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota, is consuming a large amount in the West. The stock of winter wheat in the country is less than it has been for years. Millers have been paying extreme rates for it in this city to take back to the interior."

As before intimated, the delightful warm rain of the 2d May, was of immense benefit to the growing wheat and grass, and probably saved it from almost entire destruction—the almost universal remark of every one is, that the wheat has improved wonderfully, where it was not killed out, but that it is very thin on the ground—but subsequently up to the 20th of May, the weather has not

been propitious, and under no cicumstances, we believe, can any near approach to an average crop be expected of that great staple. We hope we may be mistaken, but surely the chances are decidedly against it. Let those therefore who have it in their power, make every effort to grow whatever is necessary for the sustenance of man and beast In this and the preceding numbers of the Farmer we have given ample instructions in regard to the crops for the season; let every one act in accordance with his own convictions, as to what is best for his own particular case.

From our own correspondence, we make some brief extracts, and add items from other sources, and could if space permitted, fill pages with similar intelligence. Our position is a central one, perhaps better adapted than that of most others, to survey the whole subject of the crops, as well in this country as in Europe, and we will in accordance with our duty, watch the current of events, so as to keep our readers and the public advised of the state of the markets for the principal staples of the Middle and Southern States.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Amherst Co., Va., May 8.—"The general prospect for a crop of wheat in this county, Amherst, is a poor one; some few crops are very promising, especially where seeded early and guanoed."

Tarboro, N. C., April 22.—"There is but little wheat grown in this section of our State. The weather has been unusually cold for the last fortnight. Our farmers usually commence planting cotton on the 15th April, but the unprecedented coldness of the present season has deterred all but a very few from making a commencement. The cotton plant, as you are aware, requires six months from the time it comes up to mature fully. If this cold spell continues much longer, the prospect for a good crop will be anything but promising."

Matagorda, Texas, May 4.—Much of our cotton is not yet up. A most unprecedented spring—frost after frost—setting at nought the best management. Our crops are all set back a month later than usual, but with a fine soil and late fall, we hope for the best."

Powhatan Co., Va., May 4.—"The wheat crop has been very unpromising in this region, but much improved by the refreshing rains for the past three days; we cannot hope for a full crop, as it has been much killed by the cold freezing weather for the past two months—and too cold to bring up our corn."

Caroline Co., Va., May 12.—Wheat, where properly seeded, looks well—bad seed and bad culture, is not what the good Book calls for—and where this is the case, we have bad crops—single plows and grass as high as the beam, skimming one inch, cannot make good wheat. Wheat roots extend far beyond conception of sight, sometimes many feet. [See American Farmer for February for Prize Essay on this subject.]

Monongahela Co., Va., May 14.—"Where land is good, the wheat looks well, but much of the wheat land is poor, and poorly put in, consequently, I do not think a full average crop can be made in this county. The spring is very backward, and weather very changeable."

Orange Co., Va., May 13.—"Every thing in the agricultural line is gloomy in the extreme. This spring comes gloomy up this way. I am glad to see that —— ——— is listening to his judgment more than his imagination,—unless something is done to reduce the price of Guano we must cease to use it. I fear we have already passed the line of profit."

Christian Co., Ky., April 24.—"Wheat is very sorry; it is thin, more than half of the seed being thrown out by freezes—the forward early sowing is seriously hurt by very heavy browning, scorching frosts—the first tobacco plants are all killed—thrown out or up by heavy frosts, and there is a great scarcity of seed—some are sowing over the third time. Our farming interests are in a very doubtful and confused state."

Shenandoah Co., Va., May.—"The spring being so very unfavorable, our wheat fields present the most unpromising prospect seen for years."

Gloucester, Va., May 11.—"The weather has been so unpropitious that many of our farmers have ploughed up their corn fields and re-planted entire, which makes our corn planting very late. The wheat generally is looking miserable. Many farmers will not make half a crop. My wheat is looking very well,—except an exposed situation that was seeded very late,—(about the first of December). There is no comparison between the drilled and broadcast wheat—the drilled is fully 50 per cent. better; my drilled wheat will compare favorably with the best *guanoed* wheat in the county; it is on marled land, clover sod—no manure of any description used."

Shenandoah, Va., May 4.—"In the No. just received I see that the prospects for a good crop of wheat, is quite unfavorable. The winter has been severe throughout the United States, and we have got our portion, having just passed through winter, and have not had any spring. March nearly froze all the wheat in the lime-stone country. Shenandoah and Rockingham cannot make half a crop this season, although it has been raining for several days, and the wheat has started finely. The wheat on the bottoms, that was sown on wheat stubble early, looks well. In fact, the wheat looks better just in this neighborhood than any other part of the county. The farmers pretty much all complain of short allowance of corn to feed on; and something strange for us, some have sent to Frontroyal and Winchester to buy corn; they get it delivered at Woodstock, and it cost there about 62½ cents. There is still some here yet for sale, price asked, $1, the last sold at 85 cents. Hay is worth from $16 to $20 per ton, and scarce at that. Nearly all commenced planting corn last week, some nearly done, others about half."

Richmond, Va., May 5.—"My wheat is looking very well, and I have the best prospect I ever had, but am in daily dread of discovering the chinch bug, which, I learn from some of my neighbors, is in their fields."

Harrison Co. Va. May 5th.—"We have as fine an appearance for wheat in this county now as I ever remember seeing, and an unusual breadth of land sown, and our fields are green with grass;

and extensive preparations making for a corn crop."

FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Cecil Co., Md., May 16.—"Our farmers agree that taking the county over there cannot be much more than half a crop of wheat in Cecil the coming harvest."

The New York Journal of Commerce says:—"An intelligent planter, just arrived from Georgia, informs us that the damage to the crops by the recents frosts in that part of the country, has not been in the least overrated. He is confident that the cotton crop is curtailed about one-third. It was repeatedly killed and replanted, until seed could no longer be had; and, as a last resort, corn was planted in many instances."

Jefferson Co., Va., May.—The wheat crop in this county, presents at this time, a very unpromising appearance. Few fields, if any, will produce an average half crop, and a majority are entirely bare, and cannot produce as much grain as was sown upon them. The late cold spring has very much retarded farming operations, and most of the farmers will, consequently, be compelled to plant less in corn. The failure of the clover crop for the last few years, has left the country barren of vegetation, and the whole face of it presents one uniform look of barrenness and poverty. The extreme cold and long winter has caused provender to be very scarce; many farmers indeed are destitute of any, and the cattle are almost in a state of starvation. We have never before seen this county present so discouraging a prospect. From all the information we can gather, our adjoining counties are in a like condition.—*Charlestown Spirit of Jefferson.*

Prince George's Co., Md., May 14.—"At present there are few tobacco plants as large as a quarter of a dollar, and the continued cold weather is favorable to the fly, which is committing great depredation upon the tender plants. The plant is fully one month later than in ordinary seasons, and it will require the most propitious seasons in June to insure anything like an average crop."

The Crops in the West.—The unfavorable reports which have reached us from the South find an echo in the following general review from the St. Louis Intelligencer of the grain prospects of the West:

"The prospect at present, for even an average crop of those great staple products of the West, upon which all our prosperity depends—wheat, corn and oats—are anything but cheering. They are rather decidedly gloomy. Throughout Missouri the wheat has been severely injured by the long continued and severe frosts, while the backwardness of the spring prevents that resuscitation which warm, genial weather might have produced. In the latitudes farther south, where farming commenced several weeks ago, the young corn has been cut down, and the cotton and tobacco damaged by the frosts and freezes of the last week.

Old grain is getting scarce, from long feeding, which the backwardness of the pasturage necessitated, and in some parts of the country we learn that stock is in a starving condition, on account of the inability of farmers to get corn, at reasonable prices, to feed it with. Large amounts of corn have, during the present spring, been shipped from St. Louis to the Ohio river—itself a corn region—and at the present time, the same grain is being shipped, in small quantities, to Hannibal, for consumption in that productive region.

Our latest exchanges from Missouri and the neighboring States, speak despondingly of the prospects, and concur in the opinion that, unless a change for the better shall take place speedily, the coming crop will be a sorry one."

Spottsylvania, Va., May 14.—"The remarkably fine growing weather of this month has had an almost magical effect on the wheat in this section of Virginia. We have heard several of our most intelligent farmers say that the crop in Spottsylvania would be an average one, should there be no blight between this and harvest time. This is certainly more encouraging than we had a right to expect in view of the protracted unfavorable weather in the months of March and April.

The reports that come in to us from neighboring counties are also highly favorable.

There is said to be, however, more Chinch Bug throughout the country than ever before seen; and whilst we have high hopes of a cheering harvest, no just reliable estimate can be made, as this pest may yet completely blight the present rich and promising prospects."

The *Richmond Whig* learns that the prospect for the wheat crop, in the Northern Neck of Virginia, is not generally good—in many places decidedly bad. The cold weather has had a most unfavorable effect. In Fauquier county it will prove a total failure.

The *Frederick* (Md.) *Herald*, states on the authority of the farmers of the county, that there is at present little indication of an average crop of wheat in that county. The crop looks badly, and there is not sufficient on the ground even with the most favorable season between this and harvest, to produce a full crop.

The Wheat Crop in Illinois.—We have for weeks past examined our country exchanges with great care, and have been industrious in our inquiries of individuals, endeavoring to ascertain the true condition and real prospects of the growing wheat crop of the States. The result of our reading and inquiry may be briefly summed up. *The crop is a failure*—in many districts, containing each two or three counties, an entire failure; in others there is a prospect of the growth of the usual yield from the area sown; in others again, a half crop may be harvested; but nowhere, as we can learn, are there any fields that have wholly escaped injury. Central Illinois, from Logan county, southward, seems to have suffered most. In the two extremes of the State the report is more cheering; but unfortunately, those are the localities in which only a little winter grain is sown. In the heart of the wheat growing district, the winter has done its work—never before so badly. This is a discouraging account to send abroad; but it is important that the facts should be known.—*Chic. Trib.*

The Charleston Mercury says:—"This season has been the most remarkable within our recollection. Within the month of April there were no less than four killing frosts—killing, that is to say, as to all young vegetation. The corn has been three times killed down to the ground. The rice, the greater portion of which had germinated before the last frost, though not positively killed, was severely injured, and had a sickly and unpromising look. But a small portion of the cotton crop was up before the last frost, but all that was above ground

was killed, and must be replanted. But a few days genial weather have wonderfully changed the aspect. The forests are now vigorously throwing out their summer folige. The corn has shot up for the third time, fresh leaves. The rice has resumed its natural healthy color, and everything indicates that, if the season is favorable hereafter, it is not yet too late to restore the hopes which seemed so nearly blighted by the unkindly visitation of April frosts."

Worcester Co., Md.—The Snow Hill Shield states that the wheat crop never looked less promising in Worcester county, than at the present time, owing to the severe winter and backward spring. Much of it is winter-killed.

The Weather and the Crops at the South.—We make the following extract from a letter written by a well informed gentleman at New Orleans, under date of the 25th April:—

"We have had extraordinary weather here, and April has been colder than February. A frost on the 23d did more harm than the previous ones of the 5th and 12th, and we have great apprehensions for the cane, corn and cotton crops, which have all been killed to the ground. The weather continues cold and dry, and no chance of renewing the crops until a change to warm and wet. The entire southern wheat crop is supposed to be entirely lost, and there is an active demand for flour to go into the interior, where they have heretofore been depending on their own mills."

The *Prince George's (Md.) Advocate*, of May 20, gives a very gloomy account of the Tobacco and grain crops of that county.

The *Washington County, (Md.) Herald*, of same date, says of the appearance of the fields in that, one of the principal grain counties of our State—"the fields, with here and there an exception, present a very indifferent appearance, many of them being beyond the resuscitating power of the most favorable state of the weather"—and "that there is just ground for apprehending a serious failure.

The Alexandria Gazette says:—The chinch bug has made its appearance in Chesterfield and Amelia counties. It is said that they are doing their work of devastation with savage ferocity.

Anne Arundel Co., Md., May 3.—"The reports in regard to the growing crop of wheat are very unfavorable throughout the county. We had heavy frosts on Wednesday night last, and it is feared that it has done much injury to plants."

Ohio, May 10th.—From the correspondence of the Ohio Cultivator we gather the following facts: "The wheat crops in Jackson county are rather promising. Some fields look very fine where the land is fresh, but where the land is old, and the wheat sown late, it looks as though the yield would be small."

In Stark Co. "we have had a severe cold winter, and a long one. The coldest April for the last forty-five years. Much of our wheat is very poor; much of our spring wheat and barley has rotted in the ground. Vegetation very backward. Clover is much froze out."

In Highland and Ross counties.—"Fruit, wheat and grass look very backward south of Hillsboro to Sugar Tree Ridge. North of Hillsboro there is a fine prospect for wheat and grass—never better. The wheat does not look so well in Ross from Greenfield to Frankfort, as from Greenfield to Hillsboro."

In Clermont Co. "the wheat stands tolerably well—the frost in March hurt it some, but I think there is quite a fair prospect for an average crop."

"Weather in Marion Co. for past few days quite favorable for wheat. From present appearances, will have half crop, at least; perhaps average of county will be more."

"Wheat crops in Sullivan Co. look very flattering, considering the drouth of last fall. Our earliest sowing looks quite well indeed."

"The Spring is cold and very backward here in Geauga Co., as well as all up the Ohio river from Cincinnati to Wellsville. Wheat is at best very slim. I saw a few good looking fields along the Ohio, but none in this part of the State. Some are intending to sow spring wheat here yet if it ever gets dry enough."

In Highland Co. "the wheat promises a full average crop: is not much injured by the winter. Grass very backward, and feed scarcer than ever known.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

Since writing on this subject, (20th May,) the article on page 382, we have had a change of weather, which, up to this time, (26th,) is very seasonable. We however continue to receive letters giving unfavorable accounts of the appearance of the wheat, which we cannot publish, our paper being now ready for the press. A letter from Charles Co., Md., of May 22, says, "the fields are swarming with chinch bug and fly," and half a crop cannot be expected. Another from Northumberland, Va., of 20th, says, in that county, Westmoreland, Lancaster and Richmond, "not more than half a crop can be made; and that the army and grub worm are making havoc with the corn." Another from Loudoun, Va., of 20th, says, that "the farmers will not reap half an average crop." Another from Berkeley, of 23d, says that "in the opinion of the most competent judges, there cannot, under the most favorable circumstances, be half a crop in that county—some localities promise a fair yield, but a large majority of the fields are very indifferent, many will not produce more than the seed, and others will not pay for the cutting." A letter from Frederick, Md., of 25th, assures us that the crop cannot be an average one under any circumstances; "it rarely happens that a crop so badly injured by the winter and the fly, and so backward as a whole at this date, fills well." From Hampshire Co., Va., May 23:—"The rains have improved the crop wonderfully, and though the wheat was never more backward, still there is a prospect of an average crop, in the neighborhood of the South Branch at least."

CROPS IN FREDERICK CO., MD.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

In your last No. of American Farmer you solicit information as to the prospect of the growing wheat crop. Now as I greatly prefer being the medium of "glad tidings," and would not provoke the charge, "farmers are always grumbling," I have hesitated about complying with your very reasonable request; but since we have not only been taught to look to the American Farmer for *reliable data*, on this and other interests of vital importance to the farming community; but as our *protector* and guiding star, I may be excused, if I should add my croakings to the list.

Well then in a few words, I must say that the prospect for a half crop, in our Co. and State, so far as heard from has rarely been more certain. To say that we expect little over seed, on many fields in this neighborhood (the garden spot of our

Co.,) is, I assure you, saying much, and tells a sad tale for other parts of the State. As goes Frederick Co., so goes western Maryland.

The month of February, was ushered upon us with such balmy winds and reviving sunshine, that we not only forgot the snow and ice, (which fled at their coming) by which we had been shut in, but everything looked so *green, beautiful* and *promising*, and seemed so *to smile* again, we might almost have fancied that we could see

"Books, in the running brooks;
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

But that smile (like some others) was deceptive and cruel; and now our *bare fields*, point to empty *garners, blighted hopes, and ill requited labour.*

Up this way it is an old saying, that wheat which will hide a rabit by the first of May, "will make a good crop"—this writing, is on the 25th of April, and I tell you, it would be hard for a *wily Norway rat* to hide himself, in most of our wheat fields, unless forsooth he sought the fence corners or parts protected by the fences.

Then we are not only some two weeks behind, in *vegetation*, but the wheat ain't there. "It has been winter killed," is the common remark—all harrowed in, and especially "the Gale wheat," has suffered terribly; nor is this condition of things confined alone to this State, for I have just returned from a visit to "the Old Dominion," and upon observation and hearsay, I have no hesitation in saying, that the prospect in Va. is no better than ours.

A friend, (an intelligent and enterprizing farmer of Jefferson Co.) said to me the other day, that in this Co., Clark, Shenandoah, and others adjoining, more than a half crop (i. e., five bushels) could not be reasonably expected—and I noticed yesterday (in a Baltimore paper) that Buckingham is in the same category.

How does this tally with the statements of *speculators* or city *editors?* Judge ye! But enough on that score. We are generally, as might be expected, backward with our spring plowing—the set of clover, I fear, is only *so so*—but I am happy to be enabled to say, that if the frost do not "nip the bud," we shall yet have a fine crop of peaches and apples. And now, in conclusion, allow me to add, that I would not have anything which I have said construed into *murmuring*, or, even desponding, for however little we may reap, it will be more than we "miserable grumblers" deserve—and moreover, He who holds the seasons in his hands, and who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," oft

"Moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

But "He doeth all things well."

April 25th, 1857. AGRICOLA.

CROPS IN FRANKLIN CO., VA.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

It may perhaps be interesting to you to learn something of the prospect of the crops in this portion of our State.

It is conceded on all hands that the weather up to this time has been more uniformly cold than almost ever before known, and consequently the crops and vegetation of every kind are unusually backward. The wheat appears to be very seriously injured by the frequent freezes and frosts. The oats are decidedly unpromising, and I think are also injured by the frosts. Very little corn has been planted: on previous years, it was not uncommon for many of our farmers to be done planting by this time.

The tobacco plants are having a hard struggle for existence, and doubtless many of them have been killed; nothing but the most favorable weather can bring them to sufficient size by the usual time for planting. The prospect now is that the crop must be very late, and in all probability the plants will be scarce as well as late.

The protracted cold has made rough food of all kinds very scarce, and the stock, if they survive, must generally come to the grass very much reduced in flesh; of ordinary years the grass and buds are sufficiently out by this time to support them. At this time however they can with difficulty live even upon the best grass lots. On many of the trees the buds are hardly swollen perceptibly.

The unusual severity of the weather last winter caused a much greater consumption of forage and grain than usual.

I admit that as a general rule farmers are disposed to complain unjustly of the seasons, and make their crops out worse than they are. I think however that I can with the utmost truthfulness and justness say that their prospects are at this time anything but flattering in this portion of the country. *April 20th.* P. S.

May 9th.—The weather has become much more spring like since I wrote you last, but is still cool for the season.

The farmers' prospects in this county are far from flattering. The wheat is decidedly unpromising, and can't possibly recover from the injury done by the cold during the winter and spring. It is late and thin on the ground. The oats are also backward, and I fear have been seriously injured by the frequent freezes during the spring.

The prospect for tobacco is decidedly bad, the plants are very small, even with the most favorable weather, must be very late; I doubt whether there is a plant in this county which could not be covered by a quarter of a dollar. We have also had lately heavy rains and high water, which have injured and destroyed a great many beds.—The difficulties in the way of raising a timely supply of plants seem to be annually increasing, and I begin to think that the cultivators of the weed will have to devise some new mode of raising plants. The crop don't now have time to mature; much of it last year was destroyed by the frost.

I have been thinking of resorting to hot-beds—information on that subject would be acceptable to me, and I doubt not to most of your readers.—I have been *studying* out a plan for a hot bed, and should I think it worth the attention of the public, may on some future occasion, communicate with you again on the subject.*

PETER SAUNDERS, JR.

[*We will be glad to hear from Mr. S.—*Ed.*]

CROPS IN PRINCE GEORGE CO., VA.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—I will say a word about our prospects the present year. The wheat crop as a general thing, never looked as badly in our region. The extreme cold weather of last winter kept the wheat back, until the very mild weather we had in February, which caused it to grow out very suddenly, then the sudden change that followed affected it so materially that many fields looked as if

they were bare of wheat entirely. Many fields at this time I am sure were never as bare as they are now, and the exceptions are very few to this, if any,—indeed there are many places on our farms which are capable of producing good wheat, are as naked as if a grain of wheat had never been put on them. Through our entire fields a considerable portion of the wheat has been killed by the cold winds of the past winter, and all the advocates of thin seeding, have a very discouraging prospect I do assure you.

It is not my purpose to say anything one way or the other about the practice of thin seeding, advocated by many of our Prince George farmers, but I think the last two winters, if the impoverished state of their lands have not done so, should make them think more seriously on the subject; as a general thing I think our farmers are too much disposed to seed their wheat too thin, and I believe it would be well for you to read them a lecture on the subject, as many of them have implicit confidence in your judgment, and it might be of vast importance to all on both sides of the subject.

Many farmers have commenced planting corn, and few are done, and I am confident that we never had such a continuance of cold weather before at the time of year—this morning the ground was frozen, too much so to harrow the fields—if this state of things continue, the first, if not all the corn that is now in the ground will fail to come up, and if so, you can judge of the results, when we consider the backwardness of the season.

The fruit, of course, what little escaped the winter has been destroyed lately. A. G. J.

CROPS IN NEW KENT CO., VA.

GLENALLAN, NEW KENT CO., VA., MAY 12th, 1857.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with a request made by you, that I would let you know something about the prospect of our growing wheat crop, in time for your May or June number; I have had no opportunity for obtaining reliable information since I received your letter containing said request, until Thursday last, which was our County Court day, and, as we had our candidates for Congress with us, a very large number of persons were drawn together to hear the speaking, and, I then and there enquired of our largest wheat growers as to the prospect ahead, some said that they would make an average crop, others about ⅔ of an average crop, and others again would scarcely make a fourth of a crop; I also heard from Charles City; the fallow land wheat is looking well—corn field is looking very badly. This much I think you may set down as a fixed fact, that the very light lands with us can't make a fifth part of a crop under any circumstances that may occur between this and harvest; but the worst or darkest part of the story has yet to be told, and that is, that the wheat is at least ten days later than it was with us at this time last year, and as a day frequently makes or mars a crop of wheat with us, I am not yankee enough even to guess as to how the crop will turn out, except as to the light land as above stated.

I will give you the result as to the three kinds of guano used last fall, after harvest, unless the approaching Comet shall knock us all into a cocked hat in June next.

In haste, I remain, very truly yours,

IRA S. BOWLES.

P. S.—We are in the midst of a real easterly storm, which is very bad on the corn, which is very late and looks badly, and in many places is standing worse; indeed I have not seen a stalk six inches high this spring.

CROPS IN GLOUCESTER CO., VA.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—If I had written you one week earlier I should have given you a very different account of the appearance and prospect of the wheat crop in this neighborhood; up to that time I had flattered myself (from the accounts seen in the papers, of the crops in portions of this and some of the north-western States) that we had been more favored, but from the quantity of fly just discovered and a small white worm in the stalk, which I suppose must be joint worm, and the fact of the wheat thinning out every day, I am sure we are not more favored than other sections, and must expect our crops to be much below the usual average. The late spring has put us back very much with our corn crops; many farmers who planted early in April had to plant over; the corn that is up is looking very yellow, and does not grow in consequence of the very cool weather. *May* 13, 1857.

CROPS IN CAROLINE CO., MD.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—In your number of this month, you make a general call upon us, to give you information relative to our prospects of the present crop of wheat. For three weeks I have been riding over an extent of country, which makes no inconsiderable show in the county; in regard to the raising of grain, I have talked with our best farmers, and they all say that "where Peruvian Guano was applied they shall average half a crop, provided no accidents happen. Where there is none of that fertilizer, the farmer who will make his seed shall be lucky."

Pretty nearly all the clover seeded during the warm month of February, as well as a great deal of the oats put in the ground at that time, vegetated, and were subsequently killed by the heavy frosts we have experienced in March and April. The peach is ruined in my neighborhood.

April 25th. P. O. CHERBONNIER.

THE BULLS AND BEARS OF THE "CORN EXCHANGE."—The farmers and planters can judge from the following, the strong inducements which speculators have to inflate or depress prices. The Chicago Tribune has the following brace of paragraphs—a bull and a bear:

Making Money.—A corn dealer of Water street sold 114,000 bushels of corn last Friday at 61 cents, which he bought not a month ago, at 39 and 40 cents, making the comfortable little sum of $23,000 in one transaction, and that in cash. Luck of that kind beats real estate transactions. Such a pill is not bad to take.

A Failure.—There was a rumor on Saturday that a corn speculator had gone under. It is said that a month ago he contracted to deliver on board ten cargoes of corn, amounting to 100,000 bushels, during the first week in May, for 48 cents per bushel. He "sold short,"—that is, he *bet* on the price of corn at the opening of navigation and lost, corn having advanced to 63 cents, he consequently lost $20,000; and not being very heavy in the pocket, "broke."

SUGGESTIONS FOR MANURING AND CULTIVATING THE TOBACCO CROP.

The quantity of labor required by the tobacco crop, and the fact that it is his money crop, makes it incumbent upon the planter to devote to it his best fields; moreover, for the same reason, it monopolises the manures of the plantation. These circumstances, in connection with the engrossing nature of the crop, withholding the working force from the collection of manuring matters and the growth of manuring crops, account for the general wearing down of tobacco plantations, much more than the exhausting quality of the plant itself. Tobacco is not an exhausting crop, as compared with wheat and corn. A more thorough preparation of the land than either of those crops ever get, is essential to its successful culture; this tends to the preservation of the soil. Very soon after the crop is planted, the expanding leaves shade the ground from the summer sun,—and its system of large broad leaves gather a large amount of nutriment from the atmosphere. Beside this, it ripens no seeds, and the tops, suckers and stalks, return a considerable quantity of highly fertilising material. Every planter knows that he has no better manure on his farm, for any purpose, than his tobacco stalks.

The necessity for manuring the crop continues, and the present extraordinary prices offer greater inducement than for a long time before, for the most thorough preparation and enriching of the soil. Fortunately the planter is now able to avail himself of portable manures which, however high their price may be in relation to the wheat crop, will amply remunerate him in the tobacco field. There is not, therefore, the same occasion, as formerly, for withholding the manures of the farm from the grain fields. Nor is it essential to reserve the best fields for tobacco. With the use of a few hundred pounds of the proper fertilizers per acre, a *broom-sedge* field is considered by judicious planters a good fallow for the tobacco crop. Ten to fifteen dollars worth of such manure per acre, producing crops which, at present prices, pay three or four times over what the land would sell for.

We have been at some pains to determine the best fertilizer for this crop from the experience of practical men, and do not hesitate in our preference for a combination of Peruvian with Colombian or Mexican Guano. The writer has now such emphatic evidence on the growing crop of wheat, of the *permanent* effect of the Colombian Guano obtained from the Philadelphia Guano Co., and applied the first week of last June, that he gives that the preference decidedly over the Mexican for his own land. The experience of others satisfies them with the Mexican, and its lower price recommends it. The combination and thorough mixing of either of these with Peruvian, will produce probably the greatest effect of both. This mixing is not essential, however, and they may be, and are most usually applied separately. Peruvian Guano alone ensures a good crop—Mexican alone a poor crop—but Peruvian and Mexican together, a crop much superior to Peruvian alone. An intelligent correspondent of the *Petersburg Farmer*, Mr. R. H. Crawley, in narrating his experiment of last year, says: "The difference in favor of that portion of the field which had the application, both of Peruvian and Mexican, was so perceptible as to make a streak through the field, which could be perceived half a mile throughout the growth, and when it came to the knife I am certain that one plant was worth two; and after it was cured, I think I could have picked nearly every plant out, though it was mixed in the barns."

As to the method of using guano, it is probably not safe to put the Peruvian in the hill made in the usual mode of preparing tobacco land. We know of no one who has used it in that way. It is better to sow broadcast immediately before laying off the land for making the hills; the guano is then drawn together into the hill without being so much concentrated as to endanger the young plant. The objection to this method is, that at the first working or weeding of the crop, the surface of the hill being drawn away, the guano is exposed to waste. The most usual and best method, we think, is to run a tolerably deep furrow, sow the guano along the furrow, and throw the earth over it from each side, making a list, and plant on the list. This plan is highly approved by many who practice it. They lay off the furrows 3½ to 4 feet, and plant on the list from 20 inches to 2½ feet. It is not advisable in any case to give less than 3½ feet distance between the drills; the other way it may be regulated according to the strength of the land, or the quantity of manure used.

The quantity of guano used should be from three hundred to five hundred pounds of Peruvian and Mexican or Colombian mixed, in equal quantities of each. Mr. Crawley, whose experiments we mentioned above, on a sedge field sowed 300 lbs. Peruvian Guano in the drill, and after weeding, ran the bar of the plow to the tobacco, and dropped Mexican opposite the plants on each side at the rate of two hundred pounds to the acre. If the guanos are not mixed before being used, we should prefer sowing the Mexican broadcast. Its action is so much more lasting, that it is desirable on account of the crop following, to have it distributed through the soil. The Peruvian, not being expected to last beyond the growing crop, should be placed where it can be made most certainly available, and at the same time, not liable to loss. The bottom of the furrow would seem to be its best position. One planter, who uses Peruvian alone, strews 150 lbs. in the furrow to the acre, and at

the second plowing runs the bar to the tobacco, and puts the same quantity along this furrow, throwing the earth immediately back upon it.

There are many young planters among our readers, and others whom the high prices will induce, for the first time, to cultivate tobacco, for whose benefit we make a few timely suggestions. The quality of a crop depends very much upon its steady, uniform, unimpeded growth from the start. For this end, a thorough preparation of the soil is essential. If the necessary ploughing has now been done, and the ground is cloddy or otherwise rough, it should be most thoroughly harrowed. No one knows until he has tried it, how much hoe labor is saved by having the surface in fine order, besides the general advantage in the growth of the crop. In making up the hills, or preparing the drills for the young plants, the hoe will carefully remove all lumps, and make a perfectly fine bed for the immediate occupation of the plant. The plants must be carefully set in the ground; in the hurry of planting, careless hands will frequently bend up the tap root, and a plant so put in the ground, will live sometimes ten days or more, but finally die. The ground must be opened with two or more fingers, and when the plant is inserted, the earth pressed firmly back to the full depth of the hole made. Rapid planters will put the plant in a hole made with a single finger at the risk of doubling up the root, and merely press up the earth with the thumb at the surface of the ground, leaving the hole unfilled beneath, to the certain destruction of the plant if the weather comes hot and dry. The work of planting is always one of excitement and hurry. The quick hands are ambitious to show what work they can do, and the slower ones to keep pace with the others. The tendency on their part is rather to do much, than to do it well. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the master or manager gives his closest attention to the manner in which the work is done. He must not take it for granted that the fastest planters do their work most imperfectly, for this is by no means the case, but let him give his most vigilant attention, to see that every one, whether slow or fast, does his work well. The "stand" depends much more on the manner of planting than on the season.

The young planter must take care lest his fear of not having another planting season in time, or his ambition to make a large planting, induce him to draw his beds too closely at first. The first drawing should be made rather to relieve the bed of the larger plants, than to make a large planting. If this is judiciously done, the bed improves rapidly, and in a week or ten days, a large planting may be made; but if too closely drawn at the first drawing, the beds are often seriously damaged for the whole season. Draw none early in the season but those of good planting size. At a later period, those of much smaller size, which have turned yellow and seem to have stopped growing, will be found to have large roots, and will endure transplanting better than larger and more vigorous looking plants.

The "weeding," or first hoeing of the crop, is an important operation. It is desirable to have this done as early as may be, after the plant has taken hold of the ground—say in ten days or a fortnight. In very dry and hot weather many plants will be destroyed in the operation without extreme care. A lazy hand sooner than stoop to pick the small grass from about the plant, will push his hoe against it so closely as to break and bruise it, and sometimes tear it out of the hill, or chop away so much of the earth as to cause its death. In such weather it may be found essential, if the grass is not advancing too rapidly, to postpone the weeding till a shower puts the ground in better condition for the operation. It is the more important to begin the weeding early, to anticipate such a condition of the weather, for it is destruction to the crop to be caught by such a spell "in the grass."

As to worms, there are one or two suggestions that will be useful to the young planter. Those which come in the early growth of the crop, are not destructive, being usually comparatively few, and the leaves yet small; they should be destroyed, however, and the tobacco being small, a good flock of turkeys will probably subdue them. But when the great glut comes in August or September, and the crop has attained considerable size, let not the mistake be made of supposing that a flock of turkeys, of whatever size, is sufficient to protect it. Nothing less than the whole available force of the farm should be brought to bear upon them until they are exterminated. This "glut," as it is termed, should be watched for and anticipated, and as far as possible, the young worms should be destroyed in the first stage of their existence—in the egg, or before they begin to crawl away from where they are hatched. A great deal of labor and loss may be saved by taking them thus early. But they grow very rapidly, and should they have got the start, no pains must be spared to destroy them as early as possible. The field must be gone over and over again if necessary, till the work is complete. We press the necessity of this work, because many persons without experience, suppose that a large flock of turkeys, with the help of a woman and two or three children, may be relied on to keep the worms down. They are always useful *helps*, and if driven regularly through the field destroy a large number; but when the worms appear in great quantities, as they frequently do, a dependence upon such laborers may prove the destruction of the crop.

These suggestions upon several important points, are designed to fix the attention of the young

planter upon them especially. He will of course have got the advice of his most judicious neighbors as to the general management of so important a crop. We give him warning that, with the best assistance he can get, it will tax his care and watchfulness throughout.

A SEVEN FIELD ROTATION.

Mr. A. Y. Moore, an ex-President of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, and said to be an excellent practical farmer, furnishes to the *Ohio Farmer*, the Rotation he has adopted and practiced for a wheat farm; land, climate and location being best adapted to that crop.

His farm contains 160 acres, 20 of which is devoted to garden, lawn and lots for root crops, pasturage, &c. The remainder is divided into seven fields of 20 acres each, which are farmed on the following plan. First year, corn, second oats, third wheat, fourth clover, fifth wheat, sixth wheat, and seventh clover.

The Rotation begins with corn upon a clover sod, the clover being filled with seed at the time, and all the manure of the farm-yard ploughed under with it. He ploughs deeply for corn, and aims to bury the clover seed so deeply that it will not be brought to the surface or germinate before it is wanted. His corn is worked on the surface.

For the crop of oats, the ploughing is shallow, that the turf below, and the seed, may not be disturbed.

For wheat the oat stubble is ploughed deeply, bringing to the surface the rotted turf and clover seed, making a good dressing for the crop of grain and seeding the ground amply for a "set" of clover without additional seed.

The fourth year the clover is grazed a part of the season and enough allowed to go to seed to seed the ground again. This is ploughed down deeply and wheat sown in the fall.

The fifth year after the wheat comes off, the stubble is again deeply ploughed to bring up the rotted turf and seed of the foregoing year, and wheat sown again.

The sixth year the wheat is followed by clover, which occupies the ground during the seventh; after which the corn begins the rotation as at first.

We give this plan of cropping, that our readers in arranging their rotations may have the benefit of its suggestions. The economy of clover seed is worthy of notice. Yet it is by no means certain, to our mind, that this advantage is not gained at too great an expense. The turning under of the clover stems after they had ripened the seed, would we think be unfavorable to the crop of wheat. And the seed germinating as it would in the fall immediately after the wheat seeding, the clover would advance rapidly in the spring to the injury of that crop. Under ordinary circumstances clover seeded in September, or early in October will bloom and mature, nearly as soon as that sown the previous spring. A vigorous and thick growth of wheat may however so restrain it as to prevent an injurious interference.

A pea fallow might advantageously take the place of the crop of oats, or immediately succeed it, the peas having been sown with the oats.

So many divisions of the farm are very objectionable unless cross-fencing be abandoned, as it ought to be, where grazing is not a part of the system. The day will come when grain growers and planters will be amazed at the willingness with which they have so long borne this enormous tax of cross-fencing, for the mere accommodation of their working stock and a few milch cows.

SUPER-PHOSPHATES.

An esteemed correspondent in Virginia, alluding to a communication of Prof. Gilliam, in the *Southern Planter*, discussing the merits of De Burg's and Mapes' Super-Phosphates, begs us to give our opinion as to whether these strictures are just, especially as regards De Burg's, of which much has been sold in that State.

It will be observed that Professor G. proposes to discuss the subject "so far as it is a *chemical* question," and he concludes, as the result of his investigation, that "it is manifest that neither De Burg's nor Mapes' Super-Phosphate have any claim to the confidence of the agricultural public; of the two, however, De Burg's is far preferable." All that we have to say to this is, that as regards De Burg's, Dr. Stewart says just the contrary. We leave these gentlemen to discuss the "*chemical* question" to their heart's content.

For the *practical* question, we have no knowledge of either from our own experience, but we have carefully watched the testimonials in favor of De Burg's. There is not the slightest reason to doubt that the very many certificates, published as coming from practical men, are genuine. Some of these bear most emphatic testimony to its efficiency, and many are from farmers known to us as men of careful observation and sound judgment. On the other hand, we know that with others, it has failed signally. One farmer informed us that one season it succeeded admirably, and he preferred it greatly on account of the price, to Peruvian Guano; the next season he induced several of his neighbors to buy, and it failed with all of them. We have called on our subscribers repeatedly, and have made inquiry personally, as we have had opportunity, and are compelled to say, that on the whole, the testimony of those who have used it, so far as we have been able to learn, has been decidedly in its favor. The many exceptions to its success which have occurred, may be owing to peculiarities of season, or variations in the quality of the article, or in differences of soil, we cannot tell.

CULTIVATION OF THE IRISH POTATO.

SAM'S CREEK, MD., May 18th, 1857.

Messrs. Editors:—Having made me responsible for "a method of cultivating potatoes" in your May number, I claim to be heard in regard to my *unmulched* practice in their cultivation throughout, in rows three feet apart, or in hills at the same distance. The tubers are placed in the furrows with manure or guano, or both, about one foot apart, and covered with a shallow round with the shovel plough; when the plants are about to appear above the ground it is well harrowed to level it; when the vines are 3 to 6 inches high, I give them a shallow round with the shovel plough, again covering them entirely without any regard to the position they may be in under ground, or as you have rendered it, "plough them down." The middles are then worked with the double shovel plough or cultivator, so as to entirely exterminate all the grass and weeds among them, keeping the ground as near level as possible between the rows, so as to be enabled just before the blossoms appear to give them another and deeper round with the shovel plough, again covering all the weeds that may have appeared among the vines, *without plowing them down*—the middles are sometimes finished by a single furrow, with a shovel plow, and sometimes with the cultivator. I have never tested this method with the ordinary mode of cultivation, but have no doubt of its superiority, because the vines are certainly kept much freer from grass and weeds than it is possible to accomplish by the hand and hoe. The covering given the vines does not at all retard their growth; in a week's time they appear above the surface as erect as ever, and increased in size.

Permit me to ask you what would be the probable value of the labor saved by this method of cultivation in the United States? also the probable value of the increased production under such a thorough system of cultivation? I may mention that those questions are not propounded with a view either to a premium or a "pension." I am aware that I have only been making *war* in the "potato field" upon the "thorns and thistles," which appear by appointment, soiled only with the dust of mother earth, and not crimsoned with blood from the "battle field," from having destroyed the enemies of the republic.

A vast difference, gentlemen, between the merits of the two occupations, according to the provisions of the statute book, both in regard to our education and qualification to discharge their respective duties, and in the immunities enuring to the misfortunes attendant upon the practical discharge of those duties to the country and the world—but, as Sir F. Bacon said long ago, "the wolf careth not how many the sheep be"—and if the hand shall always be licked that is raised to shed our blood, as would seem to be the disposition of our race, our character for gentleness will be well sustained, however degraded we may be deemed by others.

D. W. NAILL.

An exchange paper calls attention to a matter, in which every publisher is interested, as follows:

TO POSTMASTERS—*Important Notice.*—It should be remembered by Postmasters that for the protection of newspaper publishers, a law was passed, not long since, requiring them to notify editors of any papers uncalled for, within five weeks thereafter, or be held themselves responsible.

WHEAT AND GUANO SOWER.

One of the most intelligent farmers of our State, who has given much attention to the subject of agricultural machinery, remarked to us a few days ago, that one of the most formidable weapons with which we were to fight the Peruvian monopolists of guano, he believed would be found in the introduction of guano attachments to the wheat drill, whereby at least two-thirds, if not three-fourths of the Peruvian Guano heretofore used, may be saved. We have heard of several trials of the kind, and have good reason to believe that the views of our friend are correct—and he has suggested to us, to call upon those who have used the drill, to report the result of their crops, in comparison with the broadcast wheat—and also that those who have used the guano attachments the last year, will likewise report the result, for the benefit of their brother farmers. This is an important matter, and we appeal to the parties alluded to, to respond at as early a day as possible, in order that others may be benefitted by their experience. By the use of these machines, together with the mixture of Phosphatic Guanoes with the Peruvian, we will be enabled to dispense with a large portion of the latter, in comparison with the amount heretofore used.

The Alexandria, (Va.,) Gazette, notices a newly invented machine for sowing wheat and guano, introduced by Mr. Fawkes, of Orange Co., Va., which is thus described, and we hope some of our manufacturers will see to its introduction into this market before seeding time:—

"Its construction is simple, but very complete. It is an entire machine within itself, can be hauled without waste of wheat and guano any required distance, when it can be thrown into gear in an instant, and will spread the wheat and guano in various conditions, with great regularity, and do the work well. Two plain rollers are used in the machine as distributors, with scrapers to each, and breakers or pulverizers under the same, for pulverizing the guano, which leaves it in a fine and loose condition, and sows it with inimitable evenness over the ground.

"There is in this machine a Swinging Diaphragm or dividing board, running lengthwise of the hopper, which prevents arching over the feeding cylinders—an evil much complained of.

"The machine can be seen at Catts' Tavern, West End."

BINDING.—In binding up the present volume of the *Farmer*, we would recommend that the cover be preserved, and bound up at the end of the matter body of the work. We can have the volume bound for 31 cents.

☞ A communication from "Experimenter, Jr." in sheep husbandry, in Western Va. is received and is a fair off-set to the article in our May No. on the same subject. We hope to give it in our next.

PRESERVING FRUITS—SELF SEALING CANS AND JARS.

The following extracts will be found useful as a guide for our fair readers, who may be disposed to try the process of hermetically sealing up fruits the coming season—and promised in our last No.:

The simple agent in the work of preserving fruit in a fresh condition *is heat*. If, after the application of heat for a certain time, the article be, *while still hot*, sealed up hermetically, it will remain unchanged for an almost indefinite period. This is the whole secret. Sugar may be used or not; but we would recommend its use to the extent of rendering the fruit sweet enough for the table.

Sealing the Cans and Jars.—When the can or jar is filled with the heated fruit or vegetable, and is ready for sealing, wipe off any of the contents which may have been spilled upon the cement. Put on the cover, being careful that the edge of the rim comes down evenly upon the centre of the cement in the channel. Allow the cover to remain a moment, to get heated, and then press it down into place. Then lay a weight upon it, and allow the vessel to remain undisturbed until the cement hardens. *The weight must be heavy enough to keep the lid firmly down.*

If the sealing is perfect, the top and bottom will become slightly concave when the contents cool. ☞Where the jars are used, let them be heated gradually by rinsing with hot water to prevent their cracking when the scalding fruit is poured in.

Should the sealing, from any cause, be imperfect, the top will swell out in a few days, or a leak show itself in the cement. As soon as either sign appears the can should be immediately opened, and the contents heated over again. This will rarely, if ever, occur, if the directions given below are carefully followed.

Opening the Can or Jar.—The can or jar may be readily opened by setting a heated flat-iron or the lid of the range or stove on the cover, and letting it remain until the cement becomes soft enough to allow the cover to be removed with ease. *It is useless to attempt to remove the cover until the cement becomes quite soft.* Or the vessel may be set in the oven of the stove or range until the cement becomes fluid, when the top can be lifted off. For gallon and half-gallon cans this latter mode is best, as the flat-iron will not cover the lid. ☞If a portion of the cement is wasted from the channel in opening, the deficiency may be supplied by melted beeswax and rosin, in about equal quantities, when the can or jar will be ready for use again.

Brief Directions for Preserving Fresh Fruit, Tomatoes, etc.

Rhubarb, or Pie-Plant.—Cut up the stalks without peeling. Stew with Sugar, as for pies, and seal up hot.

Strawberries and Raspberries.—Use from a half to three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. Sugar the strawberries, and let them stand for ten minutes; then put them into a preserving-kettle, and let them boil for three or four minutes. Fill the cans or jars, and seal quickly, while the contents are hot.

Cherries.—Stew, with or without sugar, ten minutes, and seal up boiling hot. Most persons seed them. No fruit is more easily kept in this way than cherries, and none retains the natural flavour more perfectly. Either for pies or the tea-table they are delicious.

Gooseberries.—Heat to boiling-point, in a preserving-kettle, with sugar,—say from half a pound to three-quarters for each pound of fruit,—and seal up hot.

Currants.—*Green*, same as gooseberries; *ripe*, same as cherries.

Blackberries—Same as strawberries.

Whortleberries.—Same as cherries.

Plums.—Make a syrup, using from half to three-quarters of a pound of sugar for every pound of fruit. After taking off the skins, boil the plums in this syrup for ten minutes, or until the fruit is tender. Then fill the cans or jars, and seal up hot. These are very fine.

Peaches.—There are various ways of putting up this delicious fruit. We will give several recipes, and the housekeeper can try all, or select the one she likes best.

1. Make a syrup, using half a pound of sugar for every pound of fruit. Pare and halve your peaches. Boil them five or ten minutes in the syrup. Fill the cans or jars, and seal up while hot.

2. Pare and cut the peaches in halves. As they are cut up, place them in a convenient vessel, in layers, putting as much sugar as is regarded desirable between each layer. Cover the vessel containing the fruit, and set it into a boiler of water. Let the water boil until the fruit is heated through: *be sure that the fruit at the centre is heated, as well as that at the sides.* Then fill the cans, first heating them by rinsing with boiling water, and seal up without delay. It is better to heat a quantity of the peaches together, and then transfer to the cans, than to heat after the fruit is put into them. The large mouth of these vessels allows this to be done without injury to the fruit.

3. Stew your peaches, whole or cut, with sugar, as for the tea-table. Fill the cans, and seal up hot.

Quinces and Pears.—Take good preserving-pears; peel and quarter them, and boil in a small quantity of water, until tender. Take about one-fourth the quantity of quinces, and do them in the same way. Then put both together, with as much sugar as will sweeten to the taste, into a prserving-kettle, and let them boil for three or four minutes. While boiling hot, pour into the cans or jars, and seal.

Apples.—Take firm, well-flavoured apples, such as pippins, &c. Pare, quarter, and boil until tender, but not so long as to break in pieces. Then add as much sugar as will sweeten to the taste, and let the whole boil up once or twice. Fill the cans or jars, and seal as above. Few articles for winter dessert, or the tea-table, will be found more delicate. Try a few cans.

Stewed Apples.—Apples kept over for winter use lose their perfect flavour, and the summer luxury of "stewed apples" is rarely enjoyed during the winter or spring. While apples are plenty and in fine flavour, stew them with sugar, and seal them up in Arthur's Cans. They will be as spicy and delicious at Christmas as in September. A cheaper or more favourite article for the tea-table can scarcely be found.

Pears.—Same as peaches, No. 3. If hard, boil in water until softened, before the sugar is added.

Apricots.—Same as peaches.

Tomatoes.—Take off the skin; put them in a preserving-kettle, or other convenient vessel, without salt, and boil them a quarter of an hour. Fill the cans or jars, and seal up hot.

TRIAL OF REAPERS AND MOWERS, IN OHIO.—The Ohio State Board of Agriculture, have offered $50 for the best reaper, $30 for the second best; $50 for the best mower, $30 for the second best; and same premiums for best and second best reaper and mower combined. Trial to take place on Wednesday, 1st July, at Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio. The Board will furnish the teams and teamsters.

FLORICULTURE---For June.

The plants being out of the house, there need be little said at this time. The required attention is in giving water according to their different constitutions and habits. Where there is no rain or river water, it should stand at least one day in butts or cisterns, to take the chilly air from it, and become softened by the surrounding atmosphere. This is more essential to the health of the plants than is generally supposed. The small plants in dry weather will require water evening and morning. Give regular syringings as may be required. There are frequently rains continuing for several days, which will materially injure many plants if they are not turned on their sides, or defended by sash or shutters, until the rain is over, especially small plants. The syringings should never be done till after the watering at the roots, and they should never be more seldom than every alternate evening. Turn all the plants frequently, to prevent them from being drawn to one side by the sun or light. Carefully look over them at these turnings to detect any insects, and observe that the tuberous-rooted or deciduous geraniums are not getting too much water, they being now dormant.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

We are again obliged to issue a double sheet this month. Those who use our pages in this department, find their profit in it—a letter from a Northern house, received a few days ago, says:—"We have during the past six years spent large sums of money in advertisements—we have found no investment in this line to pay better than advertising in the American Farmer."

Among the new ones for this month, are the following, viz:

A large tract of land, by G. W. Jones, of Marion, Va.

A valuable farm near Baltimore.

A tract of land, near Annapolis, Md., by R. and M. A. Hodges.

Several farms in Talbot, Md., by Thomas Hewlett.

G. O. Stevens & Co., Baltimore, offer ready made doors, sashes, frames, &c., on terms which will make a great saving in the cost of building.

Jno. S. Reese & Co., reiterate their appeal to farmers in behalf of their Manipulated Guano.

G. F. Curwen, of Pa., offers Devons from best stock.

B. M. Rhodes & Co., renew their offer to supply the Super-Phosphate of Lime manufactured by them.

Those wanting fine stock, must not forget the public sales this month, advertised in the Farmer, and before alluded to.

J. H. M'Henry, Baltimore Co., offers his imported Alderney, and other premium Alderney and Devon bulls—Machinists are also referred to the advertisement for a mill.

Several Alderney and Devon bulls, on sale at this office.

C. W. Slagle & Co., Baltimore, Commission Merchants, offer their services to the public.

A situation as Manager wanted—good reference can be given.

C. M. Saxton, N. York, offer several new books.

R. Sinclair, Jr. & Co., offer Ketchum's and other Reapers.

W. W. Dingee & Co., York, Pa., their Railway Threshing Machinery.

S. Ault & Son, Baltimore, Turnip and other seed.

Wm. Merrill, Baltimore, Wheeler & Wilson's Sewing Machine, and Lightning Conductors—their office adjoins ours.

African and Mexican Guano, consignments of some lots for sale on pleasing terms. Also Peruvian and Colombian.

N. E. Berry, Baltimore, has Magnesian Lime.

R. H. Evans, Baltimore, has 2 colts of his young Herod stock.

R. Middleton, offers Warner's Patent Pump.

Bons, Spangler & Co., Pratt's Spring-Tooth Horse Rake, and 20 reasons for using Ketchum's Harvester.

To the advertisement of the Hygeia Hotel, we call the particular attention of Southern pleasure and health seekers. We hope to meet many of our friends there the coming season.

Jas. A. M'Pherson, Alexandria, gives a description of Woodberry's Patent Genesee Separator and Cleaner.

Ray & Co. offer their Improved American Reaper & Mower.

The concentrated Blood Manure, Prof. Hare's Patent, before noticed, is now offered by J. K. Mifflin, Agent, Philadelphia.

Thos. Norris, Baltimore, offers Manny's Mower and Reaper.

BALTIMORE MARKETS—May 26.

Since our last, a very large advance has taken place in the price of all kinds of Breadstuffs, which are firm—We quote Flour, Howard st., City Mills and Ohio, $7.25; extra Ohio $7.50 a 7.75, and Baltimore, 7.75 a $8—Balt Family Flour $9.50, and extra do $8 50; Rye Flour $5. Corn meal, country, 3.75 a $4; City $4 50 per bbl. and Brandywine $4.30—Wheat, reds 1.70 a 1.75; and 1.73 a 1.76 for fair white; 1.85 to 1.88 for good to prime, and 1.90 for choice parcels—Corn is in demand; a lot of damp white was sold at 75 a 80 cts.; good to prime white 84 a 87, and yellow 85 a 89—Rye, Pa. 1.12, Md. 80c—Oats also in demand, Va. 60c, Md. 61 a 63, and Pa. 65—Whiskey, 35c for city and Pa. and 36 for Ohio—Rice 4¾ a 5c for good to prime—Sugars, considerable importations have been made, and a decline is expected, P. Rico, $11 a 12.25 for fair to choice; Cuba and Eng. Island, 10 a $11.75; and 10 a $10 50 for refining grades of do—Molasses, 52 a 55, for clayed Cuba, 56a60 for Musco in hhds., and 63 a 65 in bbls.; 56 a 63 for Eng. Island, and 70 a 75 for New Orleans. Tobacco, receipts large, but demand inactive, and sales made as soon as inspected. Md. Brown Leaf $9 a $10; Md. crop, inferior short seconds, $7.50 a $8.50; brown leafy $10 a 11; and extra at $11 a 15. The receipts of Bay Tobacco are limited as yet, but sales are making at the high rates at which the market opened, viz: Tips or tails $9 a 11; seconds $12 a 15; yellow spangled $30 a 35; and fine yel. $35 a 40. Ohio $9 a 10; mid. brown to good reds $10 a 12; good and fine reds $12 a 14; fine red cigar wrappers $15 a 18; common to middling good spangled $12.50 a $18; good to fine spangled $13 a 18; and good and fine yellow $18 a 30—Kentucky, old and new crop, $11 a 13; medium leaf $13 a 15; fair $15 a 16; fine $17 a 18; and select $18 a 20. Wool, unwashed, 20 a 22c; pulled 27 a 30c; ¼ blood fleece 28 a 32; half do. 32 a 36; ¾ do. 36 a 40; full blood 40 a 46; and extra Saxony 48 a 52—under the new tariff, which goes into operation in July, it is thought Wool will decline. Shad, N. C. $11.50 a 12. N. C. Herrings $7 a 7.25 for short, $7.50 for full brands; Potomac and Susq. $7.75; Northern Herrings $4.50 a 5. Mackerel $12 a 13.50. Guano, Peruvian $62, Colombian $40, and Mexican $25 for AA per ton of 2,240 lbs.; African $35 per 2,000 lbs. Hay, baled 26 a 28, loose 24 a 26 per ton. Straw, rye $14 a 15, and wheat 10 a 12. Plaster, no change.

A Treatise on the Artificial Propagation of certain kinds of Fish, by Dr. Theo. Garlick, is the title of a work received from the publisher, Thos. Brown, Editor of the Ohio Farmer,—Cleveland, Ohio. It is handsomely gotten up, with numerous engravings, and no doubt will be read with much interest by the disciples of Isaac Walton.

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